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Wednesday March 20 1996

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Portugal P 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Romania R 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Russia R 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Spain S 16.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Sweden S 10	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Switzerland S 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Taiwan T 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
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UK UK 1.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10
Zimbabwe Z 2.00	Belgium FF 60	Denmark DK 15	France FF 10

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,505

TV chefs: the new popstars?

Scrambled egos

G2 with European weather



John Redwood: Why I love Britpop

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Society How the police want to help the mentally ill

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Secret note exposes safety fear

Budget cuts hit privatised industry

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

SAFETY in the privatised industries — including railways, electricity, coal and nuclear power — is being endangered by cuts in the Health and Safety Commission's budget, according to a confidential letter written by the commission's chairman. The letter, prepared for despatch to the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, and passed to the Guardian, warns that unless recent spending cuts are reversed, the commission will conclude that we cannot meet all the expectations and requirements that Government, Parliament and the courts are placing on us with the resources now available.

The Health and Safety Executive, the HSE's executive arm, will simply be unable to cope if its budget is not increased, Mr Davies tells Mr Gummer.

The Health and Safety Commission and the HSE are responsible for overseeing safety across British industry, both by investigating large-scale accidents, such as the recent freight crash near Stafford, making snap inspections in factories, and sending policy suggestions to government.

Some of its most high-profile work covers North Sea oil drilling, rail safety and the nuclear industry, as well as mining.

The trade unions have been pressing for years for an increase in the number of on-



site inspectors, claiming that staff cuts have been allowing employers to cut safety corners in the drive for profits.

In the letter's most damaging passage, Mr Davies spells out the need for extra resources to handle additional demands. "We are also anxious to respond effectively to the Government's requirement that we should protect and maintain safety standards, especially in the newly privatised and liberalised industries. Health and safety in the railway and gas industries in particular (though not exclusively) are high on the agenda of public concern."

Extra funds are specifically needed "to maintain effective regulatory regimes for the newly privatised industries of rail and coal, where there is, as you know, considerable pressure from Parliament and the public for assurances about safety standards."

Staffing, the letter points out, has been driven down from 4,300 in late 1993 to around 3,900 now, with a further planned cut to less than 3,400 by the turn of the century.

The letter says that even if the request for extra funds, amounting to more than £20 million, is granted, a reduction in the number of inspectors would still be necessary.

The leak is especially embarrassing for the Government since John Major yesterday reassured the Commons that privatisation of the nuclear industry would not affect safety standards.

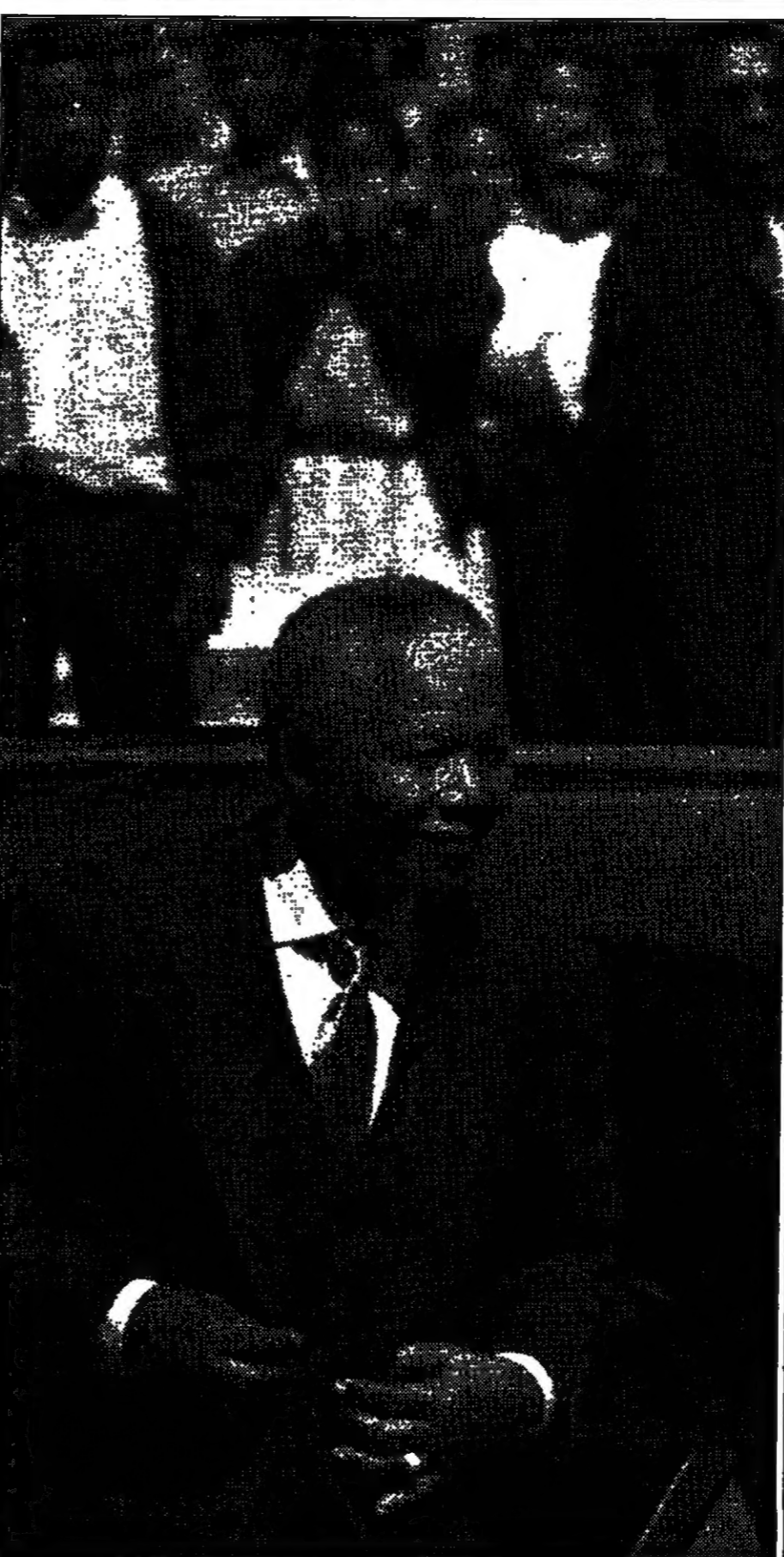
The five-page letter, prepared at a special meeting of the commission on March 13 and due to be despatched this month, also warns that the HSE's programme to encourage investment in health and safety in small business will be undermined by cuts in the commission's budget.

Mr Davies also points out in his letter, prepared as part of the commission's bid to boost £150 million-plus budget, that it needs more resources to grapple with new "staff-intensive responsibilities for regulating chemical and other major hazard plants" — new duties placed on the HSE by the European Union.

Ian McCartney, the shadow employment spokesman, to whom the letter was originally passed, said yesterday: "This letter shows that the heart of the UK's safety watchdog, which has consequences for every workplace in the country, it shows public concern about safety standards in British industry, including the big privatised industries, the so-called-privatised industries, and in small businesses, is fully justified."

"The Government has pushed morale in the commission to rock bottom."

Judge steps in to grant Mandela divorce



Nelson Mandela outside the Johannesburg court yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: KOBUS BOODENSTEN

Rape ruling sets legal precedent

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

A MAN who refused to use condoms was jailed for four years for raping five prostitutes yesterday, in what is believed to be the first case of its kind.

A jury accepted that the prostitutes withdrew their consent to sex with the married businessman when he insisted on having unprotected intercourse.

His counsel, Nadine Radford QC, told the court his wife had discovered his activities and now always accompanied him on his travels.

Ms Maguire said: "We're concerned that this man is not considered a danger to the public only because he is accompanied by a woman who is acting as his gatekeeper."

The court heard that Shaw took time off work to travel to Sheffield and Nottingham to find prostitutes. His wife and teenage daughter knew nothing about his exploits.

A 23-year-old victim said she begged Shaw to use a condom but he told her to "shut up." Afterwards he gave her £100, five times her usual charge.

Prostitutes commonly refuse sex unless a customer wears a condom, but few rape cases involving prostitutes reach the courts. Traditionally, prosecutors have felt that juries might be reluctant to accept that a woman who sells sex can withdraw her consent.

Two prostitutes last year brought the first private prosecution for rape in England, after the police refused to act. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Judge Anthony Balston, who presided over that case at Maidstone crown court, said that prostitutes were particularly vulnerable to rape and needed more protection than other women. He said he had no doubt the defendant had thought he was safe because the women would be unable to go to the police.

'His advisers are telling him to do things which are political suicide. I hope he does resign. We might get someone sensible'

— Patrick Minford Treasury 'wise man'



Clarke told to go

Michael White Political Editor

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was yesterday urged to resign his stewardship of the economy by one of his own Treasury advisers, the unconstructed monetarist, Professor Patrick Minford.

Prof Minford, one of the Treasury's seven "wise persons" who offer the Chancellor independent — and

often conflicting — economic advice, has long since written off the election, blaming the ebullient Mr Clarke for excessive caution on everything from tax cuts to public borrowing and interest rates.

But the outspoken Thatcherite economist of Liverpool University had not called for his boss to walk the political plank before yesterday's interview with the Birmingham Post. In it he likened the Chancellor to

"some sort of undertaker. His advisers are telling him to do things which are political suicide. I hope he does resign. We might get someone sensible in his place."

Mr Clarke, currently on a trade mission to South Africa, is the object of a whispering campaign on the Tory right wing. It suggests he will resign from the Cabinet if, as expected, it endorses a referendum on the prospective European single currency.

Few of Mr Clarke's political allies believe it for a moment. They endorse what John Major's team publicly proclaims: that voters will realise how well the economy has been restored.

Labour last night seized on Prof Minford's remarks. The shadow chief secretary, Andrew Smith, said: "It is quite extraordinary, for an adviser in his position to call for a politician as senior as Kenneth Clarke to resign."

One Tory MP called Prof Minford "a nutter."

Prof Minford is used to such abuse. "One warns and one warns; and one is dismissed as a fool or a madman," he recently wrote.

Winnie's defence fails as row over cash looms

David Beresford on the bitter end to a 38-year partnership

WINNIE Mandela's defence against the divorce action brought by her president husband collapsed dramatically yesterday after she sacked her legal counsel in mid-session and asked for a last-minute postponement to hire another.

Nelson Mandela's lawyers immediately protested that the move was "the oldest trick in the book" to stall the proceedings. Judge Frickie Eloff rejected her request and told her she could either give evidence herself or call witnesses. When she did neither, he granted Mr Mandela a divorce after 38 years of marriage.

The ruling came after two days of evidence that included charges that Mrs Mandela had committed adultery. Mr Mandela, aged 77, had claimed the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

"The position appears to be clear that on the evidence, that was not challenged, the plaintiff is entitled to a divorce. His claim is unanswerable," the judge said.

Seemingly close to tears, Mrs Mandela left the Johannesburg supreme court immediately after the ruling, without looking up.

The South African president sat slumped in his chair and looked depressed as the decree was granted. But earlier he had threatened to disclose more serious "dirty linen" if her lawyers pursued the contention that the apartheid regime's security police were responsible for the collapse of the relationship.

The financial settlement will be dealt with in a further hearing today. Mrs Mandela is claiming half of her husband's estate.

Mr Mandela conceded that

his wife had suffered "gross persecution" and "brutal treatment" at the hands of the police under apartheid. But he told the court: "There were many women in this country who suffered far more" — citing as an example Albertina Sisulu, the wife of his former deputy, Walter Sisulu.

Mrs Mandela's defence collapsed abruptly in the early afternoon when Judge Eloff refused an application for a postponement to allow preparations for the appearances of witnesses, including Paul Erasmus, a former security police officer, and Chief Kalsar Matanzima. Mr Erasmus would testify to police dirty tricks and the chief would argue the need for tribal mediation to save the marriage.

The judge said their testimony could have no relevance to the central issues of whether Mrs Mandela had committed adultery — a charge the defence had not challenged — and whether the breakdown of the marriage was irretrievable.

Inside

Britain
 A man has been jailed for six months in New York for helping his chronically ill wife commit suicide

World News
 Over 17,000 Serbs are believed to have fled Bosnia this year

City
 Natwest is poised to announce an £800m takeover of Clerical Medical, making it a leading player in the life insurance market

Comment
 The survival of the NHS will demand huge restructuring and job losses unless the rules are changed fast, says Will Hutton

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Sketch

Ancient custom of verbal runs



Simon Hoggart

It seems only a year ago that we were celebrating National Contingence Day, yet here it is again. Like so many ancient British traditions, this one means less than it did.

Back in 1994, it was a whole seven days, National Contingence Week, and the nation celebrated in style, with balloon races, mass pelvic floor lifting and a grand conference on Women and Contingence.

The Prime Minister had no plans to do so. "What's a pity," mused Mr Cummings in a near impenetrable Geordie accent, "I'll never know what you mean in the Government's terms."

Review

The elusive art of self-deprecation

John Fordham

Woody Allen Royal Festival Hall
In a former incarnation as a New Yorker columnist, Woody Allen once wrote an indispensable guide to some of the lesser-known ballets.

barrasing flow. Mr Major replied that the DoT had now made the necessary orders and the roads would be built. This reduced Mr Cummings to silence, but much too late.

Mr Richard Burden (Lab, Northfield) took up the topic of water privatisation. At length. Back in 1989, he said, Michael Howard, now the Home Secretary, but then the minister in charge of water privatisation, had predicted that water privatisation would not be a political issue.

The Speaker had had enough. "Questions are getting much too long!" she shouted. But nothing would stop them. The Tories sent Sidney Chapman (Chipping Barnet) into battle. His topic was electric privatisation.

When the FA announced proudly that a new rugby museum had been opened that morning by "the Rt. Hon. Virginia Bottomley," a low but powerful booming swept around the stadium.

Water curbs in hot weather will be inevitable, says government report

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

WATER supplies in England and Wales are not sufficient to satisfy demand, and restrictions will have to be imposed over large areas whenever the weather gets warm and dry.

It will be impossible to build enough reservoirs or to trap enough rain by other methods to satisfy peak summer demand from households or demands from farmers for extra irrigation, even without the effects of global warming.

Paul Herrington, of the University of Leicester, who carried out the research said: "It is clear that there is not going to be enough water to go round. The Government will have to have a series of strategies in place so that water companies can restrict demand. It seems that the expenditure that would be required on new reservoirs to allow people water on demand is just not available, even if it were possible to achieve a building programme on such a vast scale."

Mr Herrington, one of the two assessors at the independent commission inquiry into the water supply in Yorkshire, was commissioned to look at supply requirements up to 2021, both with and without the effects of climate change.



Water collection at Halifax last summer after a pump failure... could such a scene become more widespread?

PHOTOGRAPH JOHN HOLLINAN

age daily demand is already 10,669 million litres. By 2021 this is expected to be 13,509 ML/d, a 26 per cent increase, and with climate change it is expected to rise to 14,429 ML/d or 35 per cent extra.

spells, so the estimated extra 35 per cent of water required each day would soon exhaust supplies. The two big growth areas for water use are irrigation and domestic consumption.

they do now. This is partly because of the widespread fitting of power showers, which are becoming popular and use far more water. People also wash their cars more in hot weather.

weather are expected to do so twice every nine days, rather than once as at present. Spray irrigation for crops is expected to double over the same period from the present 333 million litres a day to 717 ML/d by 2021.

water companies and the National Rivers Authority were refusing new abstraction licences to farmers because public water supplies could not cope. Restrictions including metering, hose pipe bans, and in extreme cases water rationing, may have to be considered.

Rosemary West appeal rejected '£3.6bn bonanza' for EU countries

Media payments almost derailed murder trial, barrister admits

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ROSEMARY West is likely to spend the rest of her life behind bars after losing her appeal against conviction yesterday. It has also emerged that legislation regulating the payment of witnesses by the media could be introduced after a prosecution barrister admitted yesterday that one such payment nearly "derailed" the case.

the murder of 10 young women and girls, including her daughter and step-daughter. Reasons for the judgment were given within a few days probably at the beginning of next week. After the decision, Leo Goatley, West's solicitor, said his client, who is in Durham jail and did not attend the two-day hearing, was a realist and would not be surprised by the decision.

dance, particularly from Caroline Owens, one of the chief prosecution witnesses, who had been sexually assaulted by the Wests in the 1970s, and the trial judge's directions had made it impossible for West to have had a fair trial. Mr Leveson said: "No complaint could be made about reporting during the trial."

to being derailed because Mrs Leach had told an "undoubted lie" in court about the £100,000 contract. Mr Leveson said: "No complaint could be made about reporting during the trial."

John Palmer in Brussels

SLUMP in agricultural spending by the European Union is providing an unexpected bonanza which could help to finance a big increase in EU infrastructure investment, and also return cash from Brussels to national governments.

ing the past decade. The narrower price differential between international and European markets has enabled the EU to slash food export subsidies.

All-party talks on guns policy to start in wake of massacre

Michael White and Erland Clouston

JOHN MAJOR yesterday endorsed Labour calls for urgent all-party consultation on reform of Britain's gun laws in the wake of the Dunblane massacre as the Home Office signalled a sweeping internal review intended to influence the Cullen inquiry into the tragedy.

700-year-old cathedral for friends, Melissa Currie and Charlotte Dunn. Charlotte had moved to the area six months ago from the West Midlands. Separate ceremonies followed for Megan Turner and Hannah Scott. Earlier, motorists left their cars and stood at attention as the church of the Holy Family for Dunblane cemetery.

dered 16 children a week ago, was cremated yesterday at an unnamed location "well away from Dunblane". In Whitehall, ministers, mindful of the folly of the Dangerous Dogs Act, are determined not to be stampeded into "knee jerk" responses to the killings.

Some MPs want to see the banning of handguns stored in people's homes. Yesterday the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, proposed a total ban on guns except for "agricultural or countryside" use.

Kold pins hope on euro, page 7; Leader comment, page 8

But the new report going to the commission presses much larger potential savings, thanks to a bigger than expected drop in spending on the Common Agricultural Policy.

The slump in spending on the CAP is partly due to a faster rise in prices on world food markets than in Europe, and partly to curbs on excess production introduced as part of the reform of the CAP dur-

Girl paralysed by shrapnel in Bosnia flown to UK for treatment

Sarah Boseley

MURILJA Mujic, the 12-year-old Bosnian girl paralysed by shrapnel who was rescued from a hopeless future by a British soldier, flew back to Britain for treatment yesterday.

that they have no hope of growing to adulthood in Bosnia. Adnan Cosic, aged 16 months, has a congenital heart defect which needs surgery. Elvis Kosacevic, 14, needs open heart surgery and Ivo Susac, seven, has intractable epilepsy.

Cruise to Calais in comfort...

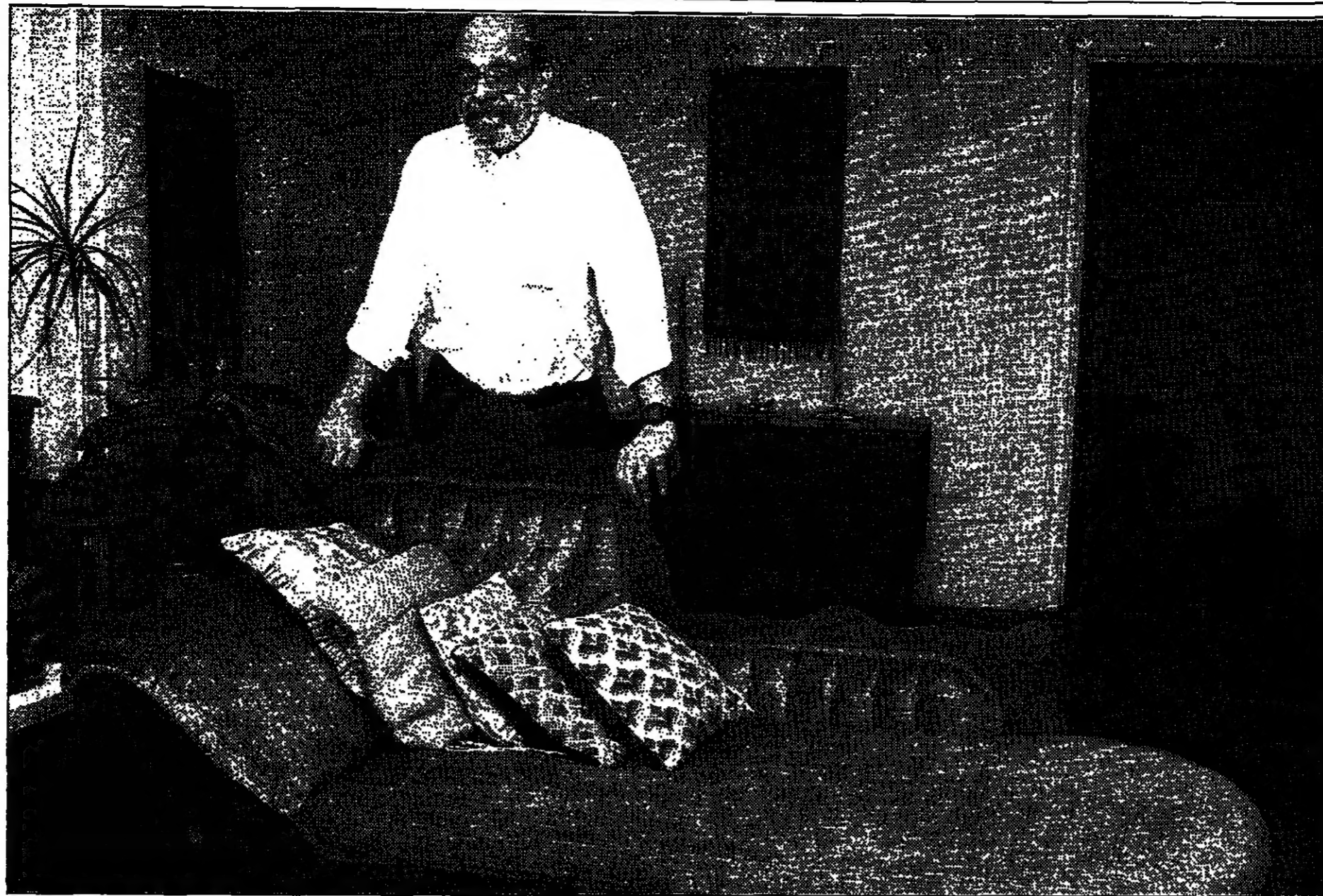
RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calais - the shortest sea route to France. Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes.



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway... Calais ...begins with sea. DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY BY P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERFERRY.

Advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, with text like 'Add...', 'to yo...', 'busin...' and 'ast we'.

will be report



George Delury in the New York apartment where he assisted his wife's death. His diary told of his frustration with her indecisiveness about taking her life. PHOTOGRAPH: CHESTER HIGGINS

Last words in diary of death

After years looking after his chronically ill wife, George Delury encouraged her to take her life, and gave her the means. Soon, he starts a jail term. Ian Katz reports on a US debate about helping people to die



Myrna Lebov with her husband. 'She didn't want to live in a state of total dependency and mindlessness'

GEORGE DELURY is making plans to sublet his apartment. It will be available for four months, he says, less if he is released early for the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah. On May 17, having legal surprises, the bespectacled freelance editor, aged 63, will pack a small bag and go to jail for helping his chronically ill wife to commit suicide last July. Mr Delury's decision to accept a plea bargain last Friday of second-degree attempted manslaughter — and a six-month prison sentence — was a striking counterpoint to a federal appeal court ruling barely a week earlier that Americans had a constitutional right to seek help in dying.

Mr Delury may have been all but convicted by the honesty of a diary he kept of his wife's last months, in which he recorded his growing despair and frustration with her indecisiveness about taking her life. He readily admits that he did more than simply provide Myrna Lebov, aged 52, with a solution of anti-depressants, water and honey in the early hours of July 4. "I at no time discouraged her. At every point I encouraged her to decide and to quit... because I was afraid for her and knew she didn't want to live in a state of total dependency and mindlessness."

Ms Lebov's sister, Beverly Sloane, for one, believes Mr Delury pushed her into committing suicide. Another factor which has complicated the debate about the case is that Ms Lebov was not, by conventional definitions, terminally ill. She suffered from multiple sclerosis, the debilitating disease which by last year had rendered her wheelchair-bound and unable to perform basic bodily functions without help. Mr Delury says he knew she was in the early stages of the disease when they married in 1974. "I asked myself, would I be able to bear the potential burden and I decided that I'd have to give it a try. I loved her. I didn't want to live without her."

He says he and Ms Lebov, who was also a writer and editor, enjoyed almost 10 happy years before her condition began to decline dramatically. For at least the year leading up to her death, however, her condition made life for both of them a constant trial. He had to catheterise her four times a day and watched in dismay as her sharp mind deteriorated. "It was getting to the point where she couldn't follow a movie plot. She used to read a book a week but she had stopped reading." He says she also suffered extreme mood swings during which "it was like she had gone away". They had talked about suicide as early as 1979, when his mother died. In early 1995, Mr Delury raised the subject once more, worried that his wife was approaching the point beyond which she would be unable to take the decision to kill herself.

He did his own research on the Internet and in medical reference books and concluded that a massive dose of amitriptyline, an anti-depressant she was taking, would be lethal. He practised dissolving the tablets in water, but though he kept some of the poison in the refrigerator, in a jar marked prune juice, Ms Lebov repeatedly changed her mind about taking her life. On some occasions when she said she wanted to, Mr Delury feared she was suffering from acute depression and refused to help her. At the same time, Mr Delury was increasingly desperate. "I had been at this for five years, working, in effect, 16-hour days, seven days a week... The idea of taking care of just a body and the person absent — I could not have done it. I think I would have killed us both."

On July 3, however, Ms Lebov surprised him by saying she wanted to kill herself the following day, Independence Day. Later, she said there was no point in waiting; she would do it that night. She tried to write a suicide note but gave up and watched Forrest Gump instead. Mr Delury cooked chicken and chips, their favourite meal while courting, and they drank wine at the card table in their bedroom. They barely spoke. "If we had talked we may have broken down and not gone through with it." After the meal, Mr Delury says, his wife asked in a "businesslike, peremptory" tone for the drug cocktail. He gave it to her just after midnight in their "held her in my arms till she was nearly asleep. Then I kissed her and rolled her on her side and said 'I love you'. I don't know if she heard."

The next morning he wrote in his diary: "Slept through the alarm. It's over. Myrna is dead. Desolation." The telephone rings as he recalls her last hours. It is a man seeking advice on helping his ailing wife to commit suicide. There have been many such calls. "I hate them. Suddenly I'm an expert on killing people," he says.

"George, I want tomorrow to be my last day. Life like this is a drag"

Chronicle of a death foretold

February 28
VISITED Petito today. We told him Myrna was getting really tired of the struggle. He shunted the thought aside. No help there. Myrna was less agitated this evening. We talked some more of... what needs to be done before the end.

March 1
I went out very briefly after Gloria left to get some milk for making corn muffins. When I came back, I found Myrna in tears, sobbing. What could I do but hold her. I knew what she was feeling. I've felt it myself. A deep, deep sorrow, indescribable, inconsolable.

March 2
Is this country so damned crazy about life at any price, so neurotic about death, that we are all but unable to help the dying meet the end with a glimmer of understanding and acceptance?

March 5
Yesterday, Sabbath, Myrna indicated she was not ready to call it quits. She insists she do something! Help her find out what! I have no idea. I told her so.

March 12
Today is Myrna's birthday — 52 years, 10 under the cloud. We're having a small party with our closest and best friends — Claudette, Gloria and Luye.

Later, after the party, Luye brought an ice cream cake and Claudette put two candles on it. We sang Happy Birthday and Gloria called for Myrna to make a wish. I suppose she did, and then she blew out the candles. I almost lost it. I walked fast into the kitchen choking on sobs.

March 14
Reread about amitriptylin in the Physician's Desk Reference again today. It definitely looks like it could do the job. Better still, I experimented with dissolving some 10mg tablets in a small amount of water.

March 27
It is a measure of my isolation that when I first began to think about my alternatives... they came down to Myrna's care (status quo), recognize that my life is over in that option and end it now (the easiest way out), walk away (criminal in more ways than one), or kill her (perhaps the kindest thing for all concerned).

From all this I conclude that it is divorce time again. But this time I am going to do my damndest to get out of it with something for myself. I am going to cry out for help and support and consideration and approbation.

April 5
This evening she admitted that she can't read a book anymore... and said she doesn't want to stick around. I told her I had solved the drug intake problem. She changed the subject. I think I better get ready. I dissolved and filtered 1,500 mg of Elavil today. I'll taste test it tonight before storing it in the fridge. It would be horrible to go out one evening and use it and find it was growing hair.

May 19
Myrna is definitely down

from the latest high, showing increased depression over her handicaps... My problem: if she asks for the poison now but seems very depressed, should I comply? Is she still autonomous? If I comply, I may be serving my own interests more than hers. If I don't, she may be losing her last chance to make the decision.

May 21
When we sat down to supper tonight, I asked her how she was feeling. She surprised me. She said, "I'm going to end it tonight or tomorrow night." She didn't see the point of going to see Tarpey again, she is tired of not being able to do anything by herself, of not being able to go out by herself. She said everything is a chore. She said she is tired.

I think it will not be tonight, but I am afraid her mood is very strange. I believe it is a possibility that she has passed the point of no escape into a condition in which she thinks about death, wants it, but is unable to will the act. I hope that is not the case. She could spend the next 20 years in that grim twilight.

June 12
The repair is deep. It is largely because Myrna is wholly out of it. Her memory is terrible. She seems to have no connection to yesterday or tomorrow, living wholly in the moment. She shows no emotions, no apparent feelings about much of anything, unless it's irritation over some little frustration. She saw Tarpey today; said she talked all the time, but can't remember what it was all about. I'm essentially living alone.

July 3
This morning, she said, "George, I want tomorrow to be my last day. Life like this is a drag. Nothing seems very interesting or worth living for all too much trouble." I asked if there was anything special she wanted to eat today or tomorrow. Nothing, except the chicken.

Whether she holds to this plan or not is hard to predict, but she is more serious about this now than I have ever seen her before. 3.30pm: Myrna has pushed up the schedule to tonight. She seems mostly concerned about whether she can keep the amitriptylin down and whether it will work... She was going to try to work on her suicide note, but at the last minute decided to watch Forrest Gump instead.

July 4, 12.30am
Myrna has just consumed 3,000 to 4,000 mg of the amitriptylin. Her courage was remarkable. Once begun, she went ahead as long as she could before it began to threaten the heavens... She said very little. Very direct and businesslike. No tearful goodbyes, no jokes, just a let's get this done approach. All rather anticlimactic.

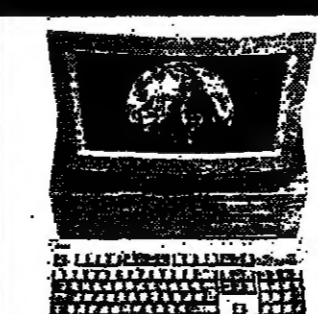
2.15am: Myrna is sleeping heavily. I'm going to grab an hour's sleep. 5.30am: Slept through the alarm. It's over. Myrna is dead. Desolation.

Who's Who:


- Petito: Ms Lebov's doctor
- Gloria: Ms Lebov's home health aide
- Claudette: Ms Lebov's substitute home helper
- Luye: Ms Lebov's physical therapist
- Tarpey: Ms Lebov's psychiatric social worker
- Anna: Mr Delury's daughter

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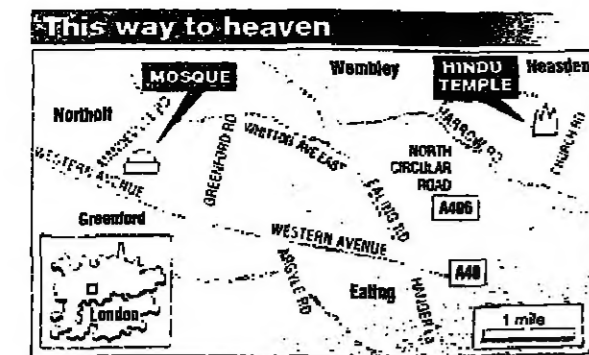


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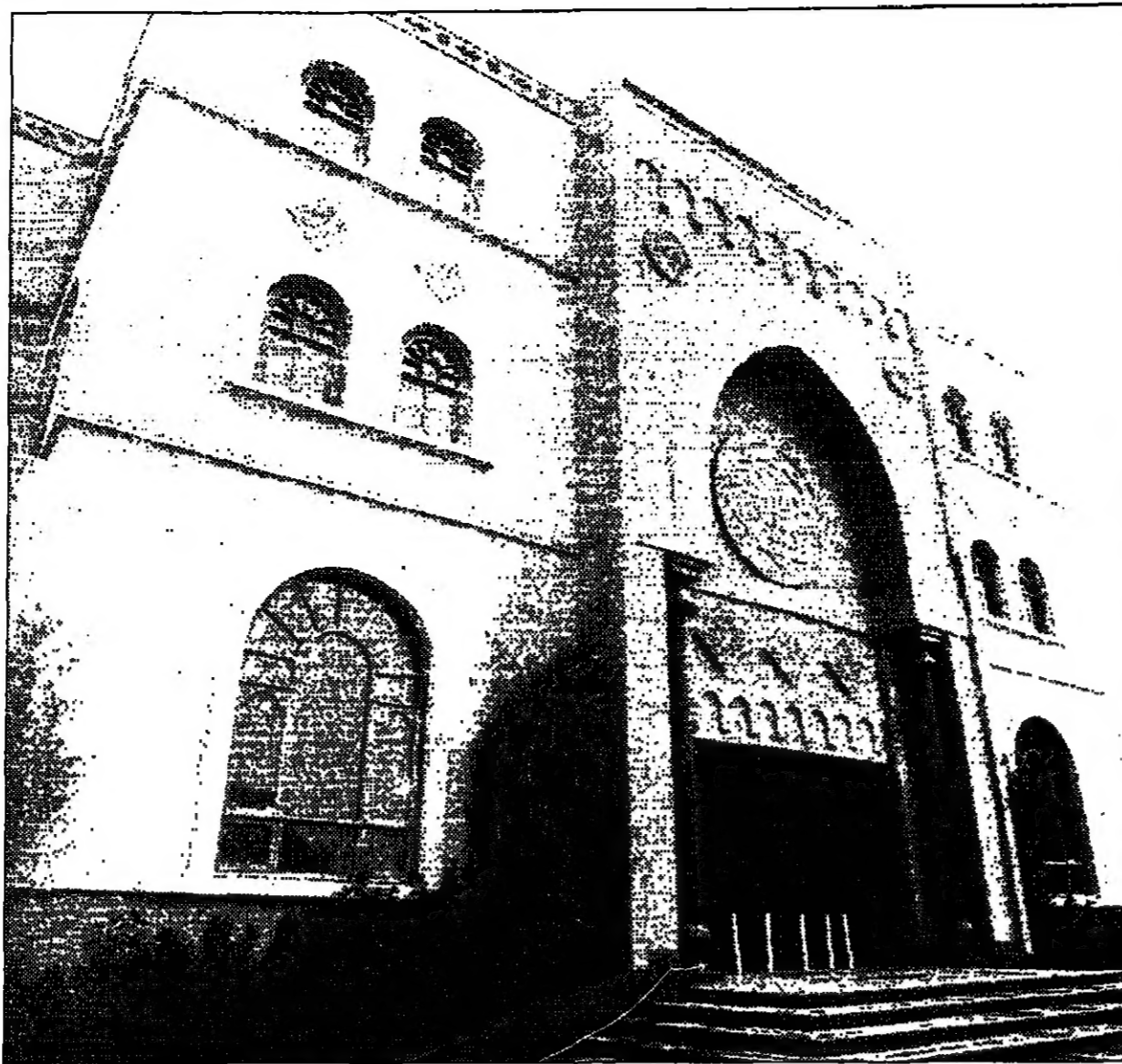
Madeleine Bunting sees one of the biggest and most beautiful mosques in Britain rising by an industrial estate



Minarets and domes rise among the warehouses

ONE OF the largest and most beautiful mosques ever built in Britain is emerging in the incongruous surroundings of warehouses on an industrial estate in a suburb of west London. The domes and minarets of rose-pink sandstone are rising above the rooftops in Northolt, only four miles from Neasden, home to a spectacular Hindu temple opened last summer. Allegations of traditional Hindu-Muslim rivalry between the Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir in Neasden and new Mohammedi Park Masjid Complex are quickly rejected by members of the 4,000-strong community of Dawoodi Bohras Muslims in Britain, who began planning the mosque in 1980 before they had heard of the Hindu temple. They have lavished £8 million on a complex of community facilities

around a mosque which will seat 1,000 people. Yesterday the Prince of Wales, who has taken a keen interest in the mosque's reinterpretation of traditional Islamic architecture from Fatimid Egypt, visited the still incomplete complex. One of his architectural advisers, Keith Critchlow, who teaches at his Institute of Architecture, has been closely involved in the mosque's construction. Inevitably comparisons will be drawn between these two striking religious landmarks in London. Both have been built by sects originating in Gujarat, which have been able to raise money from international communities and mobilise volunteers to build monuments which will put these marginal groups on the map. Behind the new Mohammedi Park Masjid Complex,



Mohammedi Park Masjid mosque, nearing completion in Northolt, west London, and (top right) Kachrugal Sndhal working on the Hindu Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, north London. PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM TURNER (above) and KOPPA MATTHEWS

due to be completed in the summer, are the Dawoodi Bohras, a rich community of traders which counts a million followers in India, East Africa, the US, Canada and the UK. They are a branch of Shia Islam and are distinctive by their clothing: the women wear veils tied under the chin, and long dresses, the men wear white caps trimmed in gold, and beards. "This is the first mosque we have built in Europe," said Lubaina Tyebji, a press spokeswoman. "Because we are a business community we settle in many countries. Wherever we live, we build mosques to teach our children about our culture and language."

The mosque offers a sports hall for basketball and volleyball, and a communal dining room and kitchens will be able to feed up to 1,000 people on festival days. The mosque's architecture is simple and severe, but a frieze of intricate plasterwork proclaiming the hundred names of Allah will run around the walls, there will be etched designs on the window glass and a screen of mahogany filigree will separate the women from the men. There has been considerable local opposition — fuelled by an active British National Party presence in Northolt. Perhaps to offset possible hostility the complex has been designed to blend into the neighbourhood. Town houses run round the perimeter of the complex, screening the mosque from the street. All have been bought by members of the community to create a Muslim enclave in this mixture of industry and 1930s suburban streets just off the M40.



MUSLIMS: There are about 600 mosques in the UK of which about 150 are purpose built. The rest are in converted homes or churches. Regent's Park mosque in London, built with donations from Saudi Arabia, is the largest. It can hold several thousand worshippers. The Aga Khan's mosque in South Kensington is one of the most prestigious. Large mosques have also recently been built in Leicester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Blackburn. **HINDUS:** There are about 120 Hindu temples. Many are in converted churches, schools, houses or warehouses. At least four have been purpose built in elaborate Hindu style. The most famous is the remarkable marble temple of the Swaminarayan Hindu Mission in Neasden. Southall and Willesden, also in west London, also have traditional temples as does Leicester. Another is at the planning stage in Ealing. **JEWIS:** There are about 350 synagogues. Just over half are in London, with the greatest concentrations in Barnet and Hackney. The number of synagogues increased by 30 in the 1980s as Jews moved out of the inner cities to set up new communities in East Anglia, Kent and on the South coast. **CHRISTIANS:** In 1994 there were 49,847 churches. The total is stable; every week six churches close and six open. The fastest growing denominations are the evangelical New Churches, which have opened 1,897 since 1980, the Baptists (439) and the Pentecostals (419).

Scott attacks 'elective dictatorship'

Richard Norton-Taylor

The abuse of executive power — by both Conservative and Labour administrations, and the failure of Parliament to act when it had the opportunity to do so — "gave substance to the charge that the constitution has become an elective dictatorship."

Whitehall lawyers, Sir Richard said, had admitted that claims that the emergency had continued until the

final 1980 four-power settlement in Germany was a "convenient fiction". "What business has a democratic Government in a country subject to the rule of law to use 'convenient fiction' ... in order to continue its use of emergency powers?" asked the author of the arms-to-Iraq report, published last month. A phrase in the law covering

export controls was repealed in 1990 without opposition. It declared the end of the wartime emergency but made the emergency powers permanent. The continued use of those powers, he said, was "constitutionally unacceptable". The union representing top Whitehall officials alleged that the Scott report — and the Government's response — had opened a "chasm" on the issue of ministerial responsibility to Parliament that left civil servants in an impossible position.

The report's criticisms of civil servants are not as strong as those directed at ministers, against whom no action is to be taken, says Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, in the union's journal. "Urgent clarification about responsibility for the deliberate misleading of the House of Commons is now needed."



Sir Richard Scott: 'cynical evasion' by Government

More teachers sue for assault

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

FOUR more local authorities are to be sued for negligence by a teachers' union which won record compensation for a primary teacher permanently injured by a pupil aged 10.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers is also calling for police or security guards to be stationed at potential flashpoints in schools, the installation of closed-circuit cameras and personal panic alarms for teachers.

Hazel Spence-Young received £82,500 from Coventry city council last week for spinal injuries inflicted at Frederick Bird primary school in 1989 by a boy who was so violent that an educational psychologist said he should be in a special school. He punched and kicked her as she tried to persuade him to go back into the classroom. Now unable to work, she needs constant painkillers, including morphine, and her right arm is partly paralysed.

Local authorities could use security guards at schools at break times and after classes to prevent gang violence, Mr de Gruchy said. He urged councils to stop closing special schools and units for emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children. "The message we are sending out to negligent employers is that the union will pursue these cases. And if we can't pursue them with reason and common sense and justice, we will pursue them in the courts and hit them where it hurts, in their pockets."

Repeated requests for the school had been ignored before the attack. She and a fellow class teacher were instructed to integrate him into their class of 48 pupils. She said yesterday she hoped her award — in an out-of-court settlement after the union began legal action — would persuade other teachers to complain about a high incidence of violence and abuse from children.

Local authorities could use security guards at schools at break times and after classes to prevent gang violence, Mr de Gruchy said. He urged councils to stop closing special schools and units for emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children. "The message we are sending out to negligent employers is that the union will pursue these cases. And if we can't pursue them with reason and common sense and justice, we will pursue them in the courts and hit them where it hurts, in their pockets."

Amazing holiday offer to employer helps man back to work.

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Labour delays Railtrack plans

Rebecca Smithers and Keith Harper

THE Labour leadership has delayed its long-awaited plans to set out its strategy on the re-nationalisation of Railtrack because of divisions among senior members of the shadow cabinet about the policy.

form of buy-back of the shares in Railtrack, which would keep the trade unions happy and underline Labour's opposition to the sell-off. This could be done by issuing preference shares in exchange for ordinary shares — a legally complex option — or by buying back a controlling stake in Railtrack which would be hugely expensive.

Tony Blair was originally due this week to give details of his party's position on the track and signalling company, which the Government will sell on the stock market in May with a £2 billion price tag.

But shadow transport secretary Clare Short and shadow chancellor Gordon Brown are hoping to convince Mr Blair that ownership is irrelevant, provided that a future government ensures tough regulation and control over its charging regime, which determines its profits.

This would involve minimal expenditure, while meeting Labour's criteria of a "publicly accountable" railway, but would infuriate the unions.

The shadow cabinet will seek to firm up its policy at a meeting this evening, following meetings between Mr Prescott and the transport team to try to resolve the issue.

Several drafts to cover Labour's policy on Railtrack have been prepared, but even with a vague wording they have not been approved because of disagreements about the public expenditure commitment involved. Deputy leader John Prescott — who is heading the policy review — and junior transport spokesman Brian Wilson are known to favour a tough line involving some

The pathfinder prospectus setting out the details of the flotation but without the key details — the offer price of each share — will be published in mid-April, ahead of the formal share offer the following month.

Lords back voluntary code over TV sporting highlights

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

A VOLUNTARY code to safeguard highlights of sports events on the BBC and ITV received all-party backing in the Lords last night as the Government averted a fresh defeat over television sports coverage.

went a long way to addressing fears that highlights of events including rugby union internationals, Royal Ascot, Open golf and the Ryder Cup, might not remain available on mainstream channels. A fortnight ago the Government conceded that eight listed events — the so-called sporting crown jewels including Wimbledon, Grand National and FA Cup final — would remain available to terrestrial viewers.

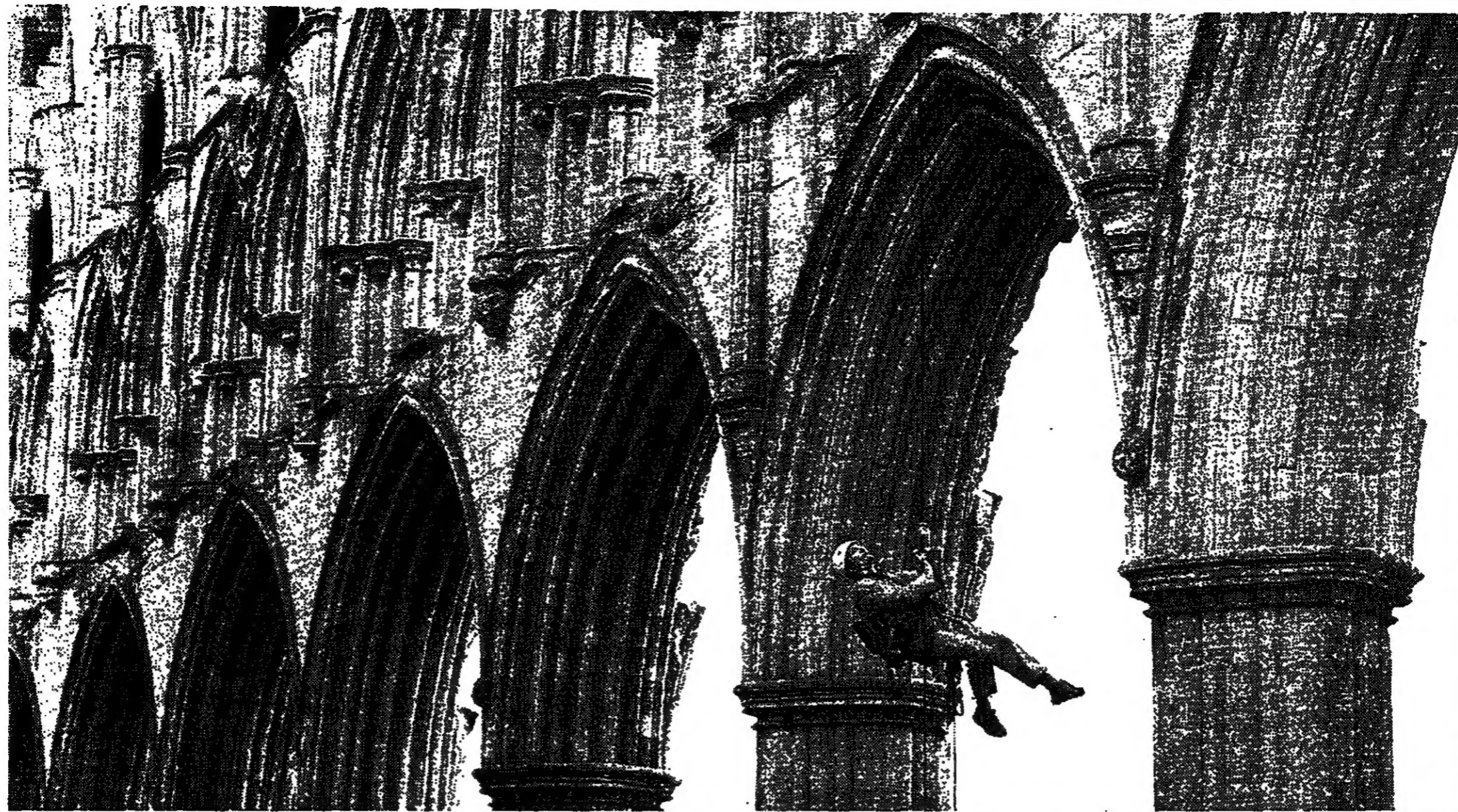
Lord Howell, the former Labour sports minister, withdrew an amendment which would have forced sporting bodies to sell packages of highlights to terrestrial channels when satellite stations had exclusive live coverage, and threw his support behind a voluntary code.

The BBC, which has strongly campaigned for legislation to protect highlights, said: "We look forward to the Government coming up with its own proposals to make sure the public continue to have access to these important sporting events."

The Sports Council has supplied the Department of National Heritage with the first draft of a code of conduct on highlights and is confident of getting major sports to sign up.

The development was welcomed by Lord Inglewood, the broadcasting minister: "A voluntary code is the right way to proceed with this matter. There is no reason to suppose that a successful outcome will not be achieved."

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Team of climbers surveys abbey

ROCK climber Chris Milford (left), dangling above the ruins of a Yorkshire abbey yesterday, is engaged with colleagues in a money-saving attempt to trace frost damage in the fragile medieval masonry, writes Martin Wainwright.

Stone blisters have been detected on the upper courses of the nave and transepts at Rievaulx, a 12th century Cistercian abbey near Helmsley, threatening to topple fragments 70ft to the floor.

"Normally we would have to put up scaffolding to carry out such a detailed survey as this," said John Simons of English Heritage, which is planning a six-month repair programme using stainless steel pins. "But climbers can get to the top parts of the abbey quickly and effectively, saving time and money."

The survey is being carried out by Wallworkers, a Bristol consortium of specialist climbers. The team will video the damage, on stones erected by Abbot Alford's craftsmen in 1131, while conservationists study the images on monitors in the cloister.

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMIE WISEMAN

Less than half marriages will last 25 years, but living alone need not necessarily mean solitude, survey finds

Odds on divorce stacked against silver weddings

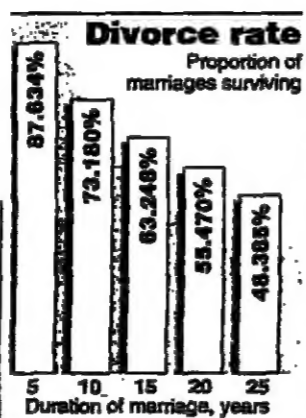
Only one in nine marriages is likely to last a golden 50 years

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

LESS than half married couples will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary, government statisticians said yesterday.

Forty-one per cent of marriages will collapse in divorce, according to the latest forecasts from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Taking account of deaths, the statisticians say only 48.4 per cent of married couples will still be together in 25 years' time.

The forecasts are based on 1983/84 divorce rates. Previous forecasts suggested 57 per cent of marriages would end in divorce (based on 1987 rates) and 34 per cent (1979/80 rates). John Haskey, the OPCS official responsible for the calculations, said divorce had risen inexorably over the past 30 years and it was reasonable to assume the 1983/84 rates would at least persist. Indeed, Mr Haskey agreed that the 41 per cent divorce forecast was "probably" conservative. But he said it was impossible to extrapolate the figure to indicate whether most new marriages were doomed to divorce.



Some 168,000 couples divorced in England and Wales in 1994, the latest year for which full figures are available, with 165,000 children under 16 caught up in the proceedings.

Of couples marrying in 1961, 23 per cent were divorced within 10 years. This compares to 17 per cent of those marrying in 1971, 7 per cent of those in 1981 and 3 per cent of those in 1991.

Divorce rates are strikingly higher among certain groups: more than 40 per cent of 1960s and 1970s marriages had ended in divorce by 1994 where the husband had married as a teenager, or where either partner had remarried in their early 20s after a previous divorce.

Among previously-divorced men who remarried in their early 20s in "snapshot" years

of 1966 or 1971, more than half were divorced by 1994.

On present trends, the OPCS expects one in nine couples to divorce before five years of marriage and almost one in four before 10 years. One in nine marriages is likely to last 50 years for a golden wedding anniversary.

Mr Haskey said he expected the Government's divorce law reform to trigger an initial rise in divorces — as couples sought a quick, fault-based settlement under present arrangements ahead of the planned changes — followed by a short-term fall after the changes. A long-term impact on divorces was unlikely.

The average, standardised death rate in 1990-92 was 96 per cent higher among men, and 73 per cent higher among women, on estates in inner cities than among those in "prosperous" wards.

The analysis shows prosperous and rural areas made the greatest health gains between 1981 and 1992. Sixteen in every 100 boys (33 in every 100 girls) born in "poor" and "inner city" areas will survive to age 85, compared to 24 in 100 boys (43 in 100 girls) in most prosperous wards.

Population Trends 83; HMSO; £11

£9m campaign launched to change couch potato culture

Chris Mihill, Medical Correspondent

A THREE-YEAR, £9 million government health education campaign was launched yesterday aimed at changing "couch potato" Britain by encouraging everyone to take at least 30 minutes' moderate exercise five times a week.

The campaign, Active for Life, has been launched after a survey for the Health Education Authority found that seven out of 10 women and six out of 10 men are not active enough to benefit their total health.

The initiative is stressing that people do not need to take vigorous or formal exercise such as squash, running or aerobics. Instead, walking to work, taking the stairs instead of the lift, cycling, dancing or gardening can have significant benefits.

The HEA said half the population was overweight and one in four was sedentary, increasing the risk of illnesses such as heart disease, strokes, raised blood pressure, osteoporosis and diabetes.

Baroness Cumberlege, junior health minister, said: "We want to counter the myth that physical activity is about

sport and nothing else. It means things like walking and cycling and dancing. Many people don't appreciate that lack of exercise is one of the main risk factors for heart disease. We want to see more people more active more often."

Paul Lincoln, HEA director, said: "The hype about the fitness boom of the 1980s has clearly passed many people by. We are all spending more time in sedentary occupations like looking at computer screens. We are becoming a nation of couch potatoes."

"Inactive and unfit people have double the risk of heart disease compared with their fit and active counterparts. Inactivity is as big a risk as raised blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking. A brisk walk, cycling or gardening can have significant health benefits provided they are done often enough."

"Thirty minutes of activity five times a week can mean something as simple as someone taking two 15-minute walks a day."

Nick Cavill, the HEA's physical activity manager, said 26 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men were put off exercise because they did not regard themselves as sporty.

"Many people are put off by the glamorous 80s catch phrase associated with activity. But activity doesn't mean sport or exercise. Activity that will improve health is within everyone's reach and can be part of daily living."



A woman pumps iron to keep fit while another seems to be on the opposite tack. The HEA is seeking to promote a happy medium



Rise and rise of 'happy singles' set to dispel loneliness myth

Owen Bowcott

THE number of people living alone — and enjoying it — will increase sharply over the next five years, while the proportion of people aged under 25 is set to go into steep decline, according to two surveys released today.

By 2000, 30 per cent of the UK population will form one person households due to higher divorce rates, longer life expectancy, and the trend for couples to marry later.

The reports, by the marketing research organisation Mintel and the British Youth Council, give a snapshot of change and opinions among two overlapping groups: the young and the unattached.

The findings undermine the myth of "sad, lonely singles". In many cases they may be more sociable than married couples, Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said yesterday. "Coupledom doesn't appear to be quite the cherished notion it was 10 years ago."

By the end of the century, the Mintel survey suggests, there will be 8 million single households, compared with the 6.8 million recorded by the end of last year.

Almost as many men as women live on their own, and the majority enjoy the freedom and the sense of achievement it brings. The stigma of "struggling singles" — those who stress factors such as loneliness or the greater expense of solo living.

People living alone are keener on buying products which are environmentally or ethically friendly than those in traditional family groups.

"The traditional picture of the older single-person household as a poverty-stricken pensioner is no longer totally accurate," the report says. London boasts the highest proportion of "happy singles" (56 per cent).

The British Youth Council presents a less upbeat view of prospects for the younger generation. The number of 16 to 25-year-olds is expected to fall by 20 per cent in the next 10 years, its report says. Their unemployment rate (16.4 per cent) is nearly double the national average and their wages have fallen compared with adult earners.

The report, "Time of Your Life", says: "The country has never had such a well educated and independent generation... yet the gap between society's expectations and many young people's experiences is wide."

Cruft's showdog savages child

Bull mastiff to be destroyed after its second attack in three years

Martin Wainwright

SURGEONS operated last night to reconstruct the face of an eight-year-old boy who was savaged by a Cruft's showdog bull mastiff when he ran to retrieve a football from a neighbour's garden.

The dog is to be destroyed following the vicious attack, its second in three years, which left Michael Swain's face and back shredded with bites.

Neighbours ran to help the screaming schoolboy as the mastiff, Casper, repeatedly attacked him after pushing through a half-opened front door in a quiet residential area of Bradford, West Yorkshire. Michael was given extensive plastic surgery at the city's Royal Infirmary and is due to have further treatment.

His father, Graham, 37, a

self-employed builder, said his son's sight was saved by his glasses. He said: "It is unnecessary to keep a dog so big in an area like this. It's three to four feet high, more like a small horse."

The attack came after Casper's owner, Tony Oxley, waved Michael into the garden to fetch the ball, but the dog darted out of the house and was on top of him immediately. Mr Swain said: "His face was dripping blood everywhere, like a piece of meat. His jumper was torn to shreds and his back was like a pepperpot with all the tooth marks."

Mr Swain said Casper had attacked his wife, Sonya, three years earlier, but she had decided not to report the incident. He added: "Thank God Michael had his glasses on at the time. He is a typical kid who hates wearing them. He has been in a lot of pain but he was joking today be-



Michael Swain: Underwent extensive plastic surgery

broken to lose Casper, but that's nothing to the feeling I have for Michael and his family. I'm so sorry about what has happened to Michael."

West Yorkshire police said Mr Oxley had agreed to have the dog destroyed and a report had been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act. A decision on whether charges will be brought alleging that Casper was dangerously out of control will be made later.

Terry Singh, Bradford's chief animal warden, said: "Any dog can turn, because they are very unpredictable animals. This type of dog has been used for centuries, mainly by gamekeepers on large estates. But they are increasingly popular as guard dogs."

A fully grown bull mastiff like Casper weighs an average of 110-130 lbs. The law governing potentially dangerous dogs was changed in 1991 following another vicious attack in Bradford on a child, Roxana Khan, who was severely mauled by a bull terrier.

Homeless Big Issue sellers 'find love'

Magazine street vendors 'meet hostility but enjoy better health'

Martyn Halsall

LOVE has blossomed on the streets of Liverpool between homeless sellers of the Big Issue magazine and some of their customers, university research is about to reveal.

The first academic survey of the lives and loves of 70, mostly single, Big Issue sellers found their job paid dividends in health and social benefits, compared with unemployed homeless people.

A few sellers have met partners "with whom they intended sharing their lives once they obtained secure, independent accommodation", says the report by a team led by Sean Stitt of John Moores University in Liverpool, to be published next week.

There is no love lost between magazine vendors and the Government, it says.

Magazine street vendors 'meet hostility but enjoy better health'

Magazine street vendors 'meet hostility but enjoy better health'

Magazine street vendors 'meet hostility but enjoy better health'

ty for the homeless in recent years.

The homeless "were seen as druggies, lazy, dirty, alcoholics [and] drop-outs who deserved nothing more".

Four out of five vendors said their physical and mental health had improved significantly since they started selling the magazine, while 65 per cent of non-vendors felt their health was deteriorating every day.

Sixty per cent of vendors said their alcohol consumption

had decreased or stopped. Twenty-five per cent had stopped drinking.

Ruth Turner, spokeswoman for the Big Issue in the North-west, where the magazine sells 35,000 copies a week and where 52,500 people are registered homeless, said the magazine was delighted that its campaign was now backed by independent academic research.

"This proves to us that it does work and that self-help initiatives are very helpful," she said.

Why is everyone talking Yakult?

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"On 16th March 1996 we carried an advertisement on behalf of ESCOM UK Limited. That advertisement indicated that product prices advertised became effective on 22nd February 1996.

Would all readers please be advised that this date was stated in error. The advertisement should have stated an effective date of 16th March 1996."

The unanimous perception of all vendors was that central and local government were 'poisonously prejudiced' towards them, and saw them as 'worthless vermin' who should be 'cleaned off the streets' and 'locked up'.

All vendors surveyed blamed the Government for their homelessness.

Among the jobless group, 25 per cent blamed themselves for being homeless, half blamed the Govern-

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*Bookings must be made by 31 March 1996. Apex conditions require a firm booking to be made 14 days in advance of travel, no amendments permitted. The offer is subject to limited availability.

News in brief

Ex-dictator picked as Benin president

BENIN'S former dictator, Mathieu Kerekou, the first African leader to be ousted at the ballot box, was returned to power on Monday in a stunning upset at the polls. State-run radio announced that Mr Kerekou had won 59 per cent, overwhelming President Nicéphore Soglo, who had 41 per cent of the vote in Monday's poll runoff. The vote was to be confirmed by the constitutional court. During Mr Kerekou's 17 years in power he was accused of running the economy into the ground and torturing his political opponents. But Mr Soglo's economic reforms led to inflation and unemployment that ultimately turned much of the country against him. The bulk of Mr Kerekou's support came from his native north and the tens of thousands of civil servants who lost their jobs when Mr Soglo came to power in Benin's first democratic election in 1991. One of Mr Kerekou's first tasks will be to convince international donors and lending institutions that he has abandoned his socialist policies and will continue the free-market system that made Benin's economy one of the fastest growing in West Africa. — AP, Cotonou, Benin.

Boycotts hit Bangladesh

BANGLADESH'S parliament opened with only one opposition chair occupied yesterday, while in a separate ceremony the prime minister, Khaleda Zia, was sworn in with all but one foreign diplomat boycotting the event. International observers found widespread improprieties in the parliamentary elections on February 18. All the main opposition parties refused to take part. Outside parliament yesterday thousands of opposition supporters clashed with police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles as they tried to force their way into the session. Scores of people were injured. The parliament is expected to be the shortest in Bangladesh's history. Mrs Zia, while not specifying any time frame, insisted that the only purpose of the sixth parliament would be to amend the constitution so that all future national elections could be held under a caretaker government — one of the opposition's demands. "I hope this will satisfy the opposition parties and they will all participate in the next election," she said. — Arshad Mahmud, Dhaka.

Violence grows in Bahrain

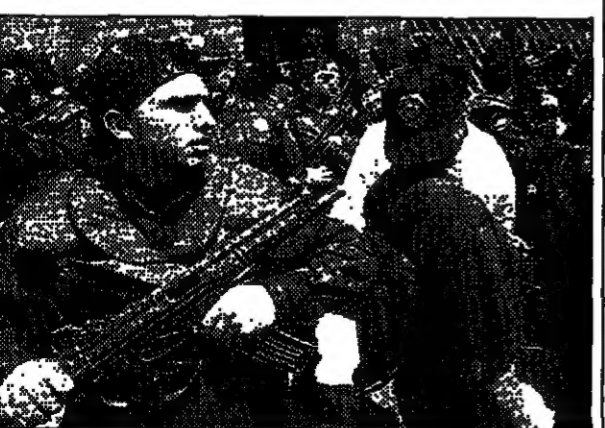
ONE of Bahrain's opposition groups, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, has threatened to escalate violence if a death sentence on a convicted detainee is carried out by the government. The death sentence on Issa Qambar, aged 27, for the murder of a police sergeant, is the first confirmed by Bahrain's security courts since the campaign for a renewal of democracy was begun by opposition groups 15 months ago. The sentence has not yet been confirmed by the Emir, Sheikh Issa, but it has triggered demonstrations around the island, particularly at secondary schools. Residents in the capital said the authorities freed 30 Muslim Shi'ites who were arrested in connection with anti-government protests. Earlier yesterday, residents said at least three students had been arrested the previous day during protests in schools at the death sentence. — Kathy Evans and agencies.

Israel flies in Thai workers

AN AIRLIFT of workers from Thailand to Israel began yesterday with the arrival of 238 farm labourers due to take the jobs of Palestinians barred after the recent suicide bombings. "It's the beginning of the mass of workers coming now because of the situation," said Liara Fine-Hiller, an agriculture ministry official, at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport. The Thais, flown in on an El Al jet, will pick oranges, vegetables and flowers on farms. The ministry has said it planned to bring in 4,000 foreign workers to join the 73,000 — mainly from Thailand, Romania and China — already employed legally in Israel. Government officials said 100,000 unlicensed foreigners work in the country. A three-week-old Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has kept more than 70,000 Palestinians from their jobs, mainly in construction and industry. — Reuter, Tel Aviv.

Hope for Polisario Front

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela of South Africa wants to formally recognise the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in the western Sahara, but has delayed doing so at the request of the United Nations, officials said on yesterday. Raymond Suttner, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, told reporters he expected an exchange of ambassadors soon with the former Spanish colony, now occupied by Morocco. "I have the impression that it might be a matter of months," he said. Parks Mankhalama, a presidential spokesman, confirmed that Mr Mandela had written to the leader of the Polisario Front, Mohamed Abdelaziz, offering full recognition. "The president has also written to the foreign ministry instructing them to set in motion a process to extend diplomatic recognition to the Saharan Republic," he said. But he added that Mr Mandela had delayed the process at the request of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who felt it could tip the balance in delicate negotiations with Morocco. — Cape Town, Reuter.



Police stand guard outside a kindergarten in Mexico City after a police helicopter chasing a carload of bank robbers crashed into the building killing three people aboard. Those inside the kindergarten escaped injury.

40 dead in second avalanche

A SECOND avalanche in five days struck a remote area of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir overnight, killing 40 people in seven houses in the village of Dhokran Chack while they slept, government officials said yesterday. Snow and rain hampered rescuers, who managed to recover only eight bodies. There were no reports of survivors in the houses involved. The mountainous site, close to the military control line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, is just over a mile from a hamlet where an avalanche killed at least 35 people on Friday night. Mohammed Akram Sobali, deputy commissioner in Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, said helicopters — unable to reach the village yesterday because of a snow storm — would be sent today, weather permitting. There were no plans to evacuate the area. — Reuter, Muzaffarabad.

The Government knows how to deal with disaffected children when they grow up. Put them in prison. But in schools, where the trouble starts, we do the opposite: we chuck them out.
Edward Bond

Taipei shops for US arms

Martin Walker in Washington

TAIWAN told the United States yesterday that it wants to spend \$4.8 billion on new American weapons, including submarines and anti-aircraft missiles. The request, coming in the middle of the Chinese military manoeuvres off Taiwan, could sharpen China's inclination to confront the island regime and add to Washington's policy dilemma. The Pentagon supports the request on military grounds, and the state department opposes it as needlessly provocative to Beijing at a critical moment in US-Chinese relations. The final decision will have

to be made by President Clinton, and may be deferred until after Taiwan's presidential election on Saturday. Congress is expected to support the sale. Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the foreign relations committee, and a majority of Republican congressmen have called on the White House to announce that it will use force to protect "our democratic ally, Taiwan, against bullying and aggression from Communist China". Taiwan has been outside the mainland's control for almost half a century. Beijing suspects that President Lee Teng-hui, Saturday's likely winner, aspires to formal independence. Its missile tests close to the island and war games in the Taiwan Strait are intended to show what it thinks of that.

The military situation remained tense yesterday. A foreign ministry spokesman in Beijing expressed his country's displeasure with the United States for "grossly interfering in China's internal affairs and for the brazen show of force" — a reference to Washington's decision to send two aircraft carriers to the area. The US naval task force commander, on the carrier Independence, said that the second carrier, the Nimitz, "could sail through the Taiwan Strait" when it reaches Chinese waters this week. The US defence secretary, William Perry, warned China against an attack on Taiwan, adding that the Americans had "the best damned navy in the world". Taiwan formally handed

over its arms request at a meeting yesterday with Kurt Campbell, deputy assistant defence secretary for Asian affairs, and state department officials, at the offices of the American Institute in Taiwan — the nearest Taiwan has to an embassy since the US agreed to recognise the regime in Beijing as the sole government of China. The meeting takes place every year, but Taiwan's insistence on pressing the arms request may be seen by Beijing as smacking of defiance at a time of tension. Taiwan is already one of the best customers for US weaponry. The first of 150 F-16 fighters are due for delivery this summer under a \$5.8 billion contract agreed by President Bush in 1992. Last year Taiwan spent just

over \$200 million on US Harpoon anti-air missiles and in advance payment for Patriot anti-aircraft missiles which are to be delivered in 1998. Taiwan is now asking for six Type-209 submarines, of German design but to be built in US shipyards, valued at about \$4 billion. It is also wants Orion P-3 anti-submarine aircraft, armed with more Harpoon missiles. The shopping list includes more than 300 Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles for troops on the highly vulnerable islands of Quemoy, Matsu and Wuchu — each within 10 miles of the Chinese mainland. "Taiwan faces a significant threat of naval blockade," ran the explanation in the formal application for the new submarines, adding that the ad-

vanced and silenced German-designed subs would give the island a "significant anti-blockade capability". Taiwan does indeed face the prospect of a blockade, which would be economically devastating to a country dependent on trade, but it is more likely to be based on the threat of missiles than the presence of Chinese surface ships sealing Taiwan's ports. Any new Taiwanese submarines would be a significant deterrent to a Chinese invasion, as would the new stock of Harpoon anti-air missiles. China has a fleet of 52 mainly elderly submarines, but has just taken delivery of two relatively advanced Russian-built Kilo class attack submarines, and has two more on order.



Rescuers carry a body out of the charred ruins of the Manila disco that burnt down early yesterday, killing 150. PHOTOGRAPH: ERIK DE CASTRO

Parents look for dead as Ramos orders disco fire investigation

AGRIM-FACED President Fidel Ramos ordered a thorough investigation into the blaze in a Manila disco in which 150 perished, and threatened to have the club's owners arrested. "You better get the owners here for investigation... If any of them refuse, I order their arrest," the president told police officers as he visited the charred ruins yesterday. Many of those killed in the fire in the Ozone disco early yesterday, mostly teenagers celebrating the start of school holidays, were trampled as more than 300 people fought desperately to reach the one door to the outside. They appeared to have suffocated before the flames got to them, firefighters said. The disco had no fire exit, they said. The cause of the blaze, which broke out just after midnight, is still being investigated. Police said only 85 corpses had been identified by late last night. Parents were still desperately trying to find out if their children were among the dead. They did not know where to search as bodies had been distributed among several mortuaries in the city. The grisly task was made more difficult by the lack of identifying jewellery and wallets, which officials had removed to prevent looting.

Whiff of adultery means death

In Pakistan's Sindh province, husbands who feel betrayed may turn swiftly into killers, writes Suzanne Goldenberg

WHEN Najma Lashari's corpse was discovered in a wasteland by a railway station in Bhai Khan Lashari village, not even her mother cried for her. "We are satisfied with this murder," said Dadi Lashari, cradling Najma's 18-month-old daughter. "This is our culture and our tradition." Najma, in her early twenties, was shot dead by her husband, Bilawal Lashari, along with a 15-year-old neighbour, Lashari, earlier this month. Bilawal broke both of Ashraf's arms first, and then turned himself in to police. The two were accused of karo-kari, or illicit sexual relations, and though this village of 200 huts, in which everyone is related, would ordinarily be in mourning, the shame attached to their deaths is too great. Instant killings of suspected adulterers have occurred in

other parts of Pakistan. In areas of Sindh bordering Baluchistan, where the literacy rate among women is as low as 0.8 per cent, there are two such killings a day. And until recently there was little public concern about karo-kari, which comes from the Sindhi word for black. Sometimes a woman's life is spared if she manages to flee to the home of the tribal chieftain. But then her fate may be even crueler: she becomes the chieftain's property, a servant or an unwilling wife to one of his relatives. Ashraf, aged 15, was one of only a dozen boys in the village of 3,000 to make it to secondary school. His family kept his mobile phone, his most prized possessions. His school identification card bears the only photo they have of him. A composition he wrote in English, about his best friend,

Nadeem, gives an indication of what the alleged lover in this triangle was like. "Nadeem is my best friend because he always comes first in examinations and he is very good at cricket," Ashraf wrote in a careful hand a few days before his murder. There are three versions of the tragedy. Najma's mother, who spoke under the watchful gaze of Bilawal's uncle, said "marriage in the nearby town of Sehwan, and were waylaid by Bilawal. But even this simple act would be sufficient motive for murder. "My daughter's life was normal," said Dadi. "Why did she spend time in Ashraf's company? Why did she go with him to the wedding? In the Lashari Baluch tribe, we can't oppose tradition." Other villagers believe in Ashraf's innocence, arguing that his youth and his relative poverty compared to Bilawal's family made him an unlikely rival for Najma's affections. Shabir Shaikh, the police chief of Dadu district, said: "I have never heard of a karo-kari accused being sent to the gallows".

A violent search for safer ground

Chris McGreal in Bukavu

FIVE central African presidents are recording a video appeal in another desperate attempt to persuade nearly 2 million Rwandan refugees to go home. The appeal, to be shown from the backs of lorries in refugee camps, was made at the end of a summit in Tunis hosted by Jimmy Carter, the former United States president. It is doubtful that the video will be much more than a novelty. Rwanda's Hutu refugees view most of the east with hostility. They believe the presidents of their own country, Zaire and Uganda, would just as willingly see them dead. Burundi's Hutu head of state is viewed as a Tutsi collaborator. Tanzania's president is new and unknown to the refugees. But the appeal will reaffirm the growing insecurity that has swept refugee camps along Zaire's eastern border amid repeated warnings of forced closure. The threats have helped fuel a violent search for safer ground by members of the defeated Hutu army and the Interahamwe militias which led to the genocide of Rwanda's Tutsis nearly two years ago. Hutu extremists have pushed out from the camps around Goma, taking advantage of inter-ethnic conflict to carve out new settlements. To the south, around Bukavu, where much of Rwanda's defeated army is camped, soldiers have intertwined with Burundi's increasingly effective Hutu militias — particularly the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD), led by the former interior minister, Leonard Nyangoma. Although both groups view themselves as pursuing a common cause against Tutsi-dominated governments and armies, Burundi's militias are more interested in obtaining weapons from the Rwan-

The cream of cooks keep it kosher

Serge Schumann in Jerusalem

WHEN his warriors proposed that David should become king of Israel, the Bible recounts, they threw a feast that lasted three days, with "meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly". Using that as a rough guide, Zachl Becker, programme director for Jerusalem 3000 — the year-long festival marking roughly 3,000 years since King David made Jerusalem his capital — decided to create an equally lavish feast.

using the sort of food the king would enjoy if he were around today. The equivalent of the biblical feast would include the finest dishes in the world, he decided. And all would be kosher. So 13 great chefs prepared what may have been the most elaborate kosher meal ever cooked — at least since David's three-day extravaganza. It was a 12-course feast ranging from a truffled cream of white beans with smoked goose breast by Joel Robuchon of Paris to a gelée of acacia honey with strawberries by another French chef, Michel Trama of Puymirol.

The feast was devoured on Monday evening by 300 people chosen solely on the basis of their readiness to fork out \$600 (£400) and keep their mobile phones switched off for the five hours the dinner lasted. For most of the chefs, cooking food fit for royalty was nothing new. But none had any previous experience in the complexities of Jewish dietary laws. The biggest challenge was to recreate their masterpieces without dairy products, which in a kosher meal cannot be mixed with meat. So with hours to go before the sound of timbrels and harps would summon

the 300 diners to the feast, the masters experimented with margarine and non-dairy creams and glazes. Chef Gualtiero Marchesi of Erbusco, Italy, was preparing his risotto with saffron — but without parmesan. Nearby, the Cajun chef Paul Prudhomme was putting the finishing touches to his "medallions of veal Hazey" — a dish he usually makes with pork and cream. Watching over them all was Rabbi Yosef Fink, charged with enforcing the disciplines of kashrut, the dietary laws, on those not accustomed to taking orders in their own kitchens. — New York Times.

Nationalism has been strengthened by the flight from Sarajevo, which was engineered by hardliners in Pale, writes **Julian Borger**

Serb exodus exposes Nato's failure

At six o'clock yesterday morning, the city of Sarajevo was reunited after nearly four years as a divided battleground. Bosnian police walked into the last sector under Serb separatist control: an ugly district of crumbling, deserted, high-rise flats called Grbavica.

For most Sarajevans it was a moment to celebrate. Thousands could return to pre-war homes and Grbavica's tower blocks, once infested with snipers, were robbed of their awful menace. It is safe to walk through the city centre in their shadow.

But the new Sarajevo has little in common with the pre-war city — a truly cosmopolitan capital, whose residents identified more with each other than with their ethnic roots. The jigsaw pieces have been put back together, but they have been so mangled by

the war that the picture is unrecognisable. There are now only 11,000 Serbs in the horseshoe of suburbs around the capital (less than a tenth of the pre-war figure). This is a disaster not only for nostalgic liberals. It is a crushing blow to hopes that Nato can pull out of Bosnia at the end of this year leaving behind a workable peace settlement.

The Nato deployment has succeeded in silencing the guns and separating the armies. But the Dayton peace plan also envisaged the reintegration of the country and the construction of a stable democracy. The Serb exodus, together with the widening rift in the Muslim-Croat Federation, has put those objectives even further beyond reach.

In the worst-case scenario, I-FOR, the Nato implementation force, will leave behind a country of three ethnic blocs:

each led by nationalists bent on a second war for revenge and economic control, each with its own foreign backers. I-FOR began its year-long mission determined to deal only with strictly military issues. The narrow interpretation of the mandate proved both inappropriate and ineffective. The Bosnian conflict was not just a shooting war. It was also a war of ethnic cleansing, carried out with cans of petrol and matches, at police checkpoints, through propaganda, and in late night visits by thugs in balaclavas.

Sixty thousand peacekeeping troops stopped the first war, but not the second. The exodus from Sarajevo was, on the whole, a case of Serb-on-Serb ethnic cleansing. The separatist leadership in Pale tried to engineer mass panic at the prospect of Federation rule, and thousands who wanted to stay were forced out by threats and firebombs.

Bosnian war crimes suspects held

POLICE in Austria and Germany have arrested two Bosnian nationalists suspected of war crimes against Serbs, the Austrian interior ministry said yesterday.

Both men are wanted by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague and by authorities in rump Yugoslavia, a ministry spokesman said.

A Dutch official confirmed they were arrested at the tribunal's request. If indicted, they will be the first suspects charged for war crimes against Serb victims. — Reuter.

of Sarajevo will strengthen the hand of Muslim nationalists in the governing Party of Democratic Action (SDA), who did little to prevent the Serb departure. Party hardliners have already driven out moderates like the ex-prime minister, Haris Silajdzic.

While the "Republika Srpska" drifts towards secession, the already sour Federation is separating like curdled milk. Croat refugees are being dissuaded by nationalists in the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) from resettling in predominantly Muslim areas east of the River Bosna.

Mostar remains as divided as ever. Croat and Muslim forces have come close to confrontation in the western town of Kulen Vakuf, and checkpoints have sprung up between Muslim and Croat pockets in central Bosnia.

Unusually, a senior British officer said this week that the

present situation reminded him of early 1993, just before the eruption of a 10-month Muslim-Croat war. If I-FOR were to leave now, many believe a new interethnic conflict would be inevitable.

There is some hope that elections scheduled to take place by September will curb the power of the nationalists and halt the slide towards partition. However, it is far from clear that a poll can be arranged in the next six months which would provide Bosnians with a genuine alternative to the nationalists, who have a grip on the media in all three communities.

Given the strength of all three nationalist parties and their determination to form ethnically homogeneous fiefdoms, there was arguably little I-FOR could have done to stem the drift towards partition. But it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the force failed to use its considerable

muscle to full effect in an area widely recognised as crucial to the reconstruction of a multi-cultural society.

"Sarajevo — that is where our hope lies," said a senior Nato planner a few weeks ago. He argued that ethnic partition would trigger a struggle for territory. The landlocked Muslims, rearmed with substantial US assistance, would be sorely tempted to break out of their narrow confines.

With this in mind, Nato is planning for life after I-FOR. The force commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, spoke publicly last week about a smaller joint task force. Defence analysts say the force would still require US support for satellite communications and air power, but sufficient numbers of US ground forces could be withdrawn to satisfy American voters that the country was not being sucked into a morass.

Kohl pins hopes on euro

Ian Traynor in Bonn

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl of Germany said yesterday that any delay in launching the proposed single European currency would be catastrophic for his country and would thwart his ambitious scheme to halve the unemployment rate by the end of the century.

Accusing the British media of "absurd distortion" of a recent speech in which he described European political union as a matter of war and peace, he reiterated his strongly-held view that European federation was a "question of destiny" and the most important issue of our times.

Any setback to the single currency project would damage his real aim, which is to push towards European political union.

"There is no political union without currency union," he said. "That was the fundamental difference between Margaret Thatcher and me. If we don't make our contribution to European unity, we will have failed before history. This is the most decisive process for this and the next century."



"The government is no longer master of the situation. It is left helpless facing the impact of its own wrong economic and financial policies"

Oskar Lafontaine

Earlier this year Mr Kohl outlined plans to halve unemployment to 2 million by the turn of the century, though it is a rare independent analyst who expects him to succeed.

While Mr Kohl stressed that currency union was critical to Germany's economic prospects, the opposition Social Democrats accused the chancellor of having lost control of his own policies.

"Mass unemployment, billions missing in the budget, uncertainty over the future of pensions — all this shows that the government is no longer the master of the situation. It is left helpless facing the impact of its own wrong economic and financial policies," a statement from the SPD leadership said.

Oskar Lafontaine, the party leader, accused the government of paralysis and reluctance to take the tough decisions needed to get to grips with the jobs crisis.

● The German government decided yesterday to deport alleged Kurdish activists involved in the weekend rioting in which 400 people, including 40 police, were injured. The cabinet decided that the "terrorist" ringleaders had to be expelled as quickly as possible.

Malian refugees occupy church

Alex Duval Smith in Paris



FOUR hundred refugees facing expulsion yesterday occupied a parish church in Paris to protest at the toughening of immigration proceedings.

The occupation — in which demonstrators could at any moment be led to airports for expulsion — comes as the French interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, is set to create new restrictions.

The refugees' spokesman, Sambate Mahamadou, a 40-year-old builder, said: "My papers are not in order, neither are those of most people here. We are tired of living in fear, day and night, of police beating my door and leading me to the airport."

Like Mr Mahamadou, most of the refugees are originally from Mali and have seen their residence status alter with the immigration law reforms of successive governments.

French interior ministry spokesman refused to indicate whether a mediator would be appointed. Yesterday afternoon there were rumours riot police had been ordered to clear the church.

The parish priest, Jean-Pierre Caveau, showed only reluctant support. He said: "The demonstrators' distress deserves to be taken into account but we have to be able to ensure their safety and that of churches."

Mr Mahamadou said: "Every hour, new people are arriving. It is happening by word of mouth. The more of us there are, the better we shall be able to resist."

Among the changes in immigration law expected will be the creation of a list of the hosts who sponsor newly arrived immigrants. According to the newspaper Libération, the hosts will be compelled to take out private insurance policies for their visitors.



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News in brief

- New danger at Chernobyl**
Radioactive elements are seeping from around the Chernobyl nuclear plant into uncontaminated areas through the groundwater. Kostyantyn Rudyk, Ukraine's first deputy environment minister, warned yesterday.
- Islamist re-elected**
Voters in Sudan elected the government's supposed eminence grise, Islamic cleric Hassan Turabi, and several government ministers to the new parliament, according to initial returns announced yesterday. First results in the presidential race are expected today. — AP.
- Machinegun deal**
Singapore and Malaysia agreed yesterday to step up cooperation in their defence industries and study a joint venture to produce 12.7mm ammunition for machineguns. The deal paves the way for production of larger calibre ammunition. — AP.
- Coma birth**
A woman who was raped while in a coma had a premature baby on Monday in what doctors believe is the first case of someone becoming pregnant and giving birth in a chronic vegetative state. The 2lb 11oz boy was born naturally and appeared to be doing well, a doctor said. The mother was unchanged. — AP.
- Refugees killed**
Sri Lankan helicopter gunships fired on a group of Tamil refugees in a camp 160 miles north of Colombo last weekend, killing at least eight people and wounding 53, a Tamil newspaper said yesterday. The army denied the report. — AP.
- US radio broadcasts to Cuba 'shaped by hardline exiles'**
Mark Matthews in Washington
- RADIO MARTI**, the United States government to broadcast to Cuba, is unduly influenced by hardline Cuban exiles, according to sources close to an investigation by the Inspector General of the US Information Agency (USIA), Marian Bennett.
- Political pressure has resulted in unbalanced news broadcasts and improper promotion and demotion of staff, according to agency documents and officials.
- A number of employees have pointed to Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the Cuban American National Foundation and chairman of Radio Marti's advisory panel, as the source of the pressure.
- Mr Mas Canosa, who lives in Miami, favours stepped-up American efforts to topple Fidel Castro's regime.
- The investigation is nearing completion at a time of turmoil inside the station and in US policy toward Dr Castro. Congress is legisla-
- ing to move Radio Marti from Washington to South Florida, a move which critics say would increase the control of anti-Castro Cuban-American leaders such as Mr Mas Canosa.
- Critics say they fear the station's credibility will suffer if it is seen as being the instrument of Cuban exiles.
- The Miami community's considerable influence on coverage of American policy toward Cuba drew complaints last year from Joseph Duffey, head of the USIA, and Joseph Sullivan, head of the US diplomatic mission in Havana.
- Mr Bennett's investigation, which began more than 18 months ago, has been prolonged because some of the subjects, including Mr Mas Canosa, have refused to co-operate.
- The investigation began in 1994 when Bruce Sherman, Radio Marti's deputy director, was stripped of much of his authority after complaining about Mr Mas Canosa's influence over the station's news director, Augustin Alles. — Baltimore Sun.

arms

Diary Joanna Coles

As you may have read in the paper yesterday, my good friend Tali-George...

YOU might think that after the calamitous theft of Bob Monkhouse's joke file...

MORE exciting details have emerged about the top-secret lunch held recently at Chequers for Charles Moore...

BRIAN Leveson QC was arguing against an appeal for Rosemary West yesterday. Pulling himself up to his full robed height...

I AM sorry to hear my friend the playwright David Hare has turned a little petulant of late...

LETTER sent to Taunton Post Office last month has been returned to its sender, Joan Cross...



Time-bomb ticks away on the wards

Commentary Will Hutton

ONE OF Britain's largest employers is confronting a financial crisis...

The problem is simple. The industry's income is static and outside its control...

This, extraordinarily, is the position of today's National Health Service. NHS Trusts are operating under a new accounting regime...

isolated for the Government to stand behind the debts of an NHS Trust...

The heart of the problem is that the trusts have an impossible financial framework. Just like British Rail...

But the impact on the running of the trusts and their financial future is profound. As Dr Jean Shaoul of the University of Manchester's Department of Accounting shows...

came lush profit centres. By contrast the NHS trusts have been saddled with £10.3 billion of assets without any concession over the valuation...

BUT given the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, under which drug companies are permitted to charge prices to give them 20 per cent rates of return...

and improving the flow of patients through the hospital - or alternatively to lower the payroll and wage rates.

Yet the NHS is far from inefficient, as Jean Shaoul shows by financially comparing the NHS trusts' performance with both the chief private hospital groups...

But, crucially, the new accounting system makes it ever harder to improve on that efficiency. If a trust wants to restructure by closing down a ward...

than the chronically ill. This may be efficient in the narrow sense, but, as Shaoul argues, "it is hard to reconcile with the notion of universal social and public healthcare provision".

And even so the financial position of the trusts is weak and weakening. Last week, for example, the financial consultant C4 Consulting showed that on a composite measure of financial stability 73 out of England's 419 trusts scored worryingly badly...

NHS Trusts - A Capital Way Of Operating, by Dr Jean Shaoul, Dept of Accounting and Finance, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL.

In praise of spooks and eunuchs



David McKie

ONE HESITATES to lavish praise on the House of Lords when it spends so much time praising itself...

None of this is to justify the present composition of the Lords. There is something pleasingly awesome in the feebleness of the arguments recently marshalled in favour of preserving hereditary peers...

But those who favour election pure and simple have two difficulties. First, the House is a second chamber which can claim any true legitimacy unless it is based on election.

page), featured eight life peers and two hereditaries, one of whom was the minister. In the end of a debate in which only one peer spoke in the Government's favour...

The last doomed attempt at Lords reform, at the end of the sixties, proposed a two-tier elected House. The justification for a second chamber should not be expressed simply in terms of power...

The last doomed attempt at Lords reform, at the end of the sixties, proposed a two-tier elected House. The justification for a second chamber should not be expressed simply in terms of power...

Getting rid of the hereditaries is the easy, and easily justified, part of the exercise. Conceiving a second chamber which does the work that a second chamber ought to be there for is a rather more taxing enterprise.

There's always England

Pulp, Blur, the Lightning Seeds - the phenomenon of Britpop has John Redwood hooked. It is typical of a distinct British culture that our politicians must defend



FOR ME to be writing about Britpop might seem about as likely as John Prescott writing an article on how much he appreciates the Latin verse of Virgil...

Let me declare firmly in advance my lack of credentials. I do not admire middle-aged trendies who pretend to a second teenage by strenuously enjoying modern stars...

They are right that there is too much needless change. We can't make everyone drink warm beer if they prefer cool lager...

There is a group called Blair who sum up New Labour's quarry. My youthful advisers tell me they do not miss us. They sing quizzically...

What do you need from life? I've been red and I've been yellow. You've got to believe it. Tony Blair, once red and yellow, perhaps he likes the slightly sinister as well...

What do you want from life? Gummer Lanolins (Smooth as a Baby's Cheek) on our bus, and Jessie Overend from Necropolis Road actually sat next to the Lord Mayor...

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Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went from Bradford?

Martin Wainwright reminisces about the great Yorkshire drought evacuation of '95 - the one Yorkshire Water warned about

THE GREAT evacuation of Bradford? Aye, lad, 'appen I remember it well. The doesn't forget seeing 20,000 Wallace Arnold coaches lined up on Leeds Road in a hurry...

One of the Me-to-We communal bath-tent (aye, it was just like the Falklands war, real community spirit)...

Earl Grey - we think it's a kind of hot Dandelion and Burdock. They have their dinner at superduper and, most uncomfortable, this water keeps falling from the sky. They call it Rhine.

Earl Grey - we think it's a kind of hot Dandelion and Burdock. They have their dinner at superduper and, most uncomfortable, this water keeps falling from the sky. They call it Rhine.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

NatWest on verge of deal

Bank set to buy Clerical Medical

Patrick Donovan

NATWEST is poised to announce that it is taking over Clerical Medical in a \$900 million deal which will give it control of Britain's sixth-largest mutual life assurance group.

But when Michael Jackson and Prince Alwaleed of Saudi Arabia tied the knot at a press conference in Paris yesterday, there was no talk of such earthly matters as assets, job creation or where the head office would be located. Even the disciples did not know.

Both NatWest and Clerical Medical, which has £13 billion worth of funds under management, yesterday declined to comment. NatWest confirmed that it was interested in "enhancing our presence in the long-term savings market."

Clerical had privately acknowledged that it lacked the critical mass to prosper in the rapidly consolidating financial services industry and needed to look for a partner.

Independent financial advisors, who feed in much of its business, have been pushing Clerical to complete the deal quickly as they fear that continued uncertainty could unsettle the market.

But analysts warn that some job losses will be inevitable as there is bound to be a degree of administrative overlap between the two companies.

Notebook

Burying the tax and spend myth



Edited by Alex Brummer

AMONG the most noteworthy achievements of the Clinton Administration has been the inroads it has made in slashing the US budget deficit.

When Bill Clinton took office in early 1993 the deficit was close to a historical peak of \$300 billion: the budget sent to Congress yesterday projects a deficit of \$145.5 billion in the current fiscal year (ending in October), which would become a surplus of \$44 billion by the year 2002.

Indeed, despite the image of Democrats as big spenders while in government, this year and next the federal and state governments will spend around 33 per cent of GDP, which makes it the lowest spending economy in the G7 with the exception of Japan.

Of course the improvement in the US public finances is partly cyclical, with the recovery boosting tax revenues which in turn brings down the deficit.

investment market have made it more difficult for mutuals to generate the income necessary to generate the capital to move aggressively into new products.

These circumstances NatWest looks a natural buyer. It has a great deal of cash, following its remarkably successful exit from NatWest Bank and has a direct tie-up with Clerical Medical which is a partner in NatWest Life in Bristol.

Unlike some recent fashions in banking — like lending to Latin America — expansion into bancassurance does not seem high risk. It is clear that to be a survivor in the life/fund management sector will require new forms of distribution.

The issue for NatWest, if it goes ahead, will be one of branding. Gertmore already is perceived as a premium brand that will improve NatWest's position in, for instance, the PE's unit trust areas.

Spanish practices
LONG-SUFFERING investors in the First Spanish Investment Trust have just a week to decide on its proposed reorganisation.

Small investors would be well advised to take the cash alternative now on offer. However, no cash alternative is being offered for the fund's warrants, which means that even the most reluctant shareholder faces being lumbered with at least retaining some exposure to this wretched fund.

Michael Jackson ties knot with prince

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

IN THE name of God, an Arabian prince and the World's Most Famous Man yesterday entered into communion "to defend family values and cultural diversity" and to denounce "decadence and immorality".

Wearing a bright-red Sergeant Pepper-style jacket — he owns the Beatles' back catalogue — Mr Jackson raised the country's most awaited dream come true.

Mr Jackson met the prince 18 months ago and "because of Kingdom Entertainment, promoting theme parks, hotels, character licensing and films".



Family values... Michael Jackson and King Fahd's nephew, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, arrive at a press conference in Paris yesterday to announce a joint venture, Kingdom Entertainment, promoting theme parks, hotels, character licensing and films

Entertainment and my partner, Prince Alwaleed, you are not alone," the 37-year-old pop star told "all those millions who have encouraged me to get involved with global entertainment based on family values".

Mr Simpson's early departure has already attracted criticism from City analysts who argue his task is incomplete. But he and Sir Brian stressed that Lucas was now in better financial shape than a few years ago.

Mr Simpson dismissed a purchase of the 28 per cent in French car components group Valeo which is being sold by Italian industrialist Carlo de Benedetti because it would not give Lucas a controlling stake.

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Refuelling ban may hit nuclear sale receipts

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

THE suspension of on-load refuelling at two of the country's most modern nuclear reactors could more than halve the £2.4 billion the Government hopes to raise from this summer's privatisation of the industry, according to a leading independent expert.

Mr McKerron said the Government's merchant banking advisers, BZW, were assuming an average output from

Lucas rejig 'on course' as profits rise

Pauline Springett

LUCAS, the motor components group, yesterday unveiled a 38 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at £61.6 million for the half year to the end of January and insisted its restructuring programme would not be derailed by the impending exit of chief executive George Simpson.

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Marriage made in Moscow heaven ends in frustrated tears

Dan Atkinson

AS THE rest of British industry grapples with stakeholder capitalism, one Yorkshire spinning and weaving group is way ahead of the game, courtesy of the peculiar business practices of Russia.

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£563,000 bonus for top ICI duo

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

THE two top ICI directors who oversaw the hiving off of the group's pharmaceutical operations through the Zeneca demerger nearly three years ago have picked up a combined £563,000 bonus.

smaller £57,000 annual bonus, this saw his overall remuneration soar from £607,000 to £883,000.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.91	France 7.47	Italy 2.345	Singapore 2.11
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Canada 2.0150	Hong Kong 11.82	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.15
Cyprus 0.8975	India 52.27	Norway 8.00	Switzerland 1.7265
Denmark 8.50	Ireland 0.9550	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 90.000
Finland 7.00	Israel 4.73	Saudi Arabia 5.70	USA 1.4850



US budget in surplus by 2002 claims President • Japan enjoys surprise growth

Clinton dangles \$100bn tax carrot

Mark Tran in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday dangled \$100 billion (\$66.2 billion) in proposed tax cuts as part of his \$1.94 trillion 1997 budget designed to help win his second term in November's election.

To promote a strong economy with sustained growth and low interest rates, the budget reaches balance in seven years by cutting unnecessary and lower priority spending' — from 2,196-page Budget statement

The tax cuts over five years would benefit tens of millions of middle-income Americans and small businesses but they are half those proposed by congressional Republicans in the impasse that has blocked agreement on a budget for fiscal year 1996, which has only six more months to run.

ever, projects shrinking budget deficits from \$145.6 billion (\$56 billion) in the current fiscal year to a small surplus of \$44 billion by 2002.

In general, the budget reflects the concessions Mr Clinton made to Republicans two months ago — chiefly his agreement to balance the budget by 2002, but makes no new ones.

Projected domestic and defence programmes over seven years, growth in Medicare by \$154 billion, Medicaid by \$54 billion and welfare by \$40 billion.

Since his election in 1992, Mr Clinton has steadily

tamed the deficit, virtually halving it from \$290 billion. In 1995, the deficit of \$164 billion constituted 2.3 per cent of gross domestic product, less than half the level in 1992.

But the present deficit is continuing to increase the already massive amount of federal debt — \$4,921 billion at the end of 1995. This year, the government is estimated to have to pay about \$247 billion of interest on its debt while total net government borrowing in the credit markets came to \$171 billion in 1995.

If its budget proposals are adopted, the administration said the US would see a continuation of healthy economic trends since 1992.

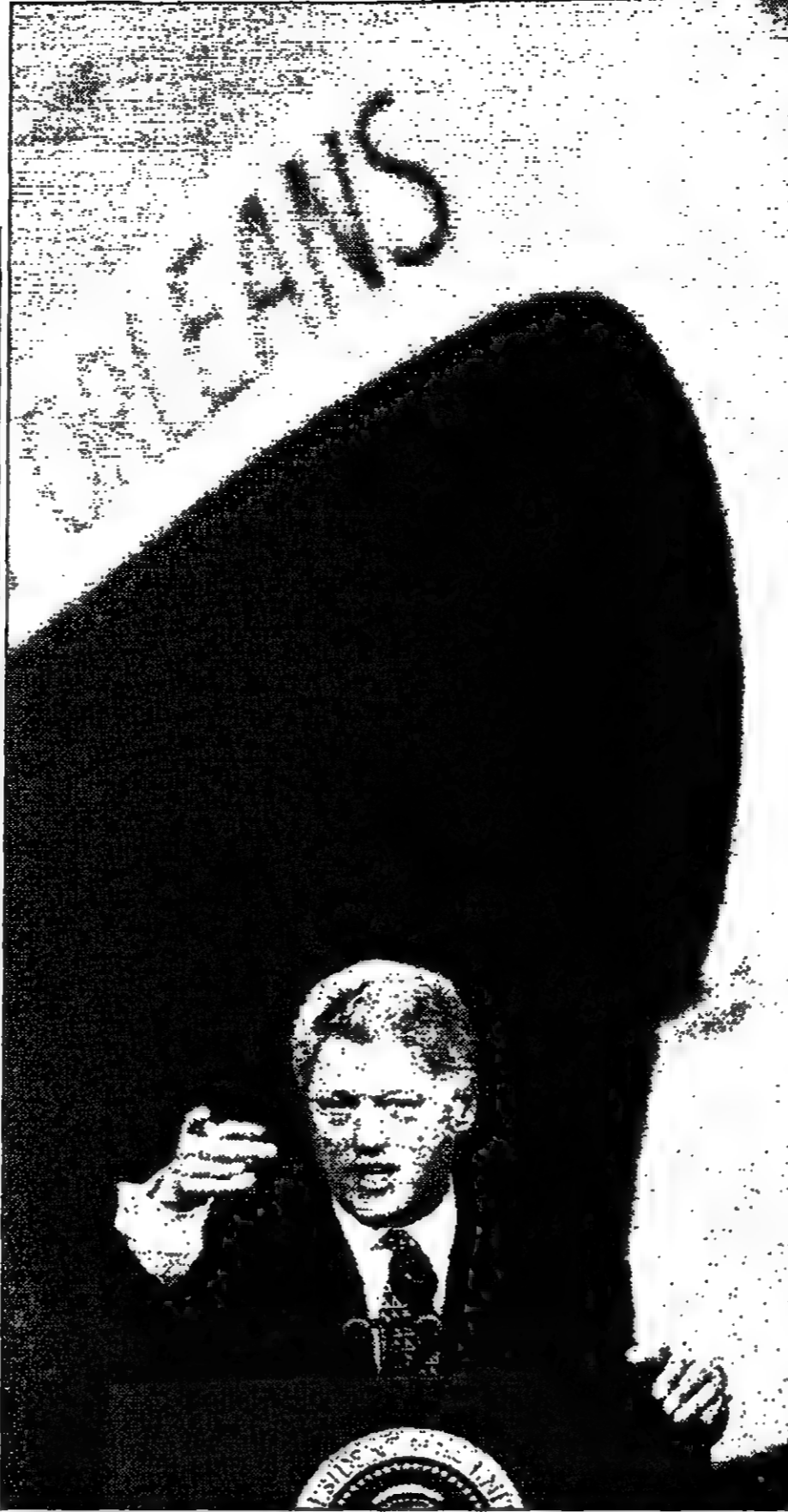
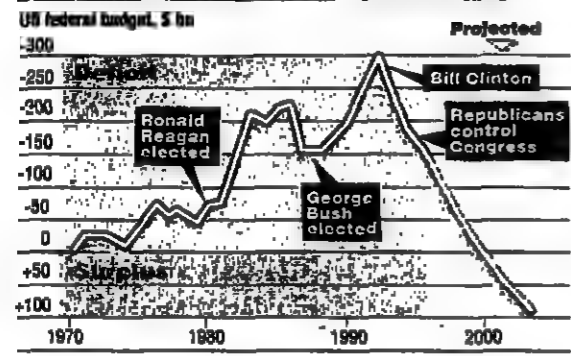
"Deficit restraint moderates inflationary pressures by restraining demand. It enables the Federal Reserve to continue its policy of easing short-term interest rates," it noted that, except for a few months in 1993, the last time long-term interest rates were this low was in the 1920s.

"The drop in rates last year is expected to set the stage for a pick-up in economic activity in 1996."

Judging by the futures market, it continued, the financial community anticipates a further reduction of one quarter of a percentage point by this summer.

On economic growth, the administration projects modest annual growth during 1997-2002 of 2.3 per cent on average, about half a point a year less than the administration achieved over the last three years. The White House expects real GDP to increase by 2.3 per cent in 1996, in line with Wall Street estimates.

Heading for a surplus



The way ahead... President Clinton admonishes a heckler during his address dedicating the \$115 million hi-tech terminal extension to the Nashville Street wharf in New Orleans

Congress asked to increase funds for World Bank

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday courted the wrath of Republicans by asking Congress to boost funding to the World Bank and the regional development banks to \$1.4 billion — a 24 per cent increase over the deadlocked 1996 budget, writes Mark Tran in Washington.

Clinton is requesting full funding for the United Nations, related agencies and peace-keeping. US arrears have now grown to roughly \$1 billion, forcing the UN to the brink of bankruptcy.

The total request for international affairs comes to \$19.2 billion. It includes funding for the Middle East peace process and \$200 million towards economic reconstruction in Bosnia. For defence, the administration has requested \$243.4 billion for 1997, down from \$257.4 billion this year. For 1996, Congress provided \$7 billion more than the administration requested, mainly for weapons the Pentagon said it did not need or planned to request later.

Recovery ahoj as Tokyo spurt baffles critics

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

JAPAN'S economy surprised the pundits yesterday when the government announced that growth jumped to an annual rate of 3.6 per cent in the final three months of last year.

It confirmed that official printing had taken effect and consumer spending began to grow. The spurt took growth for the year to 0.9 per cent, much higher than expected.

The good news helped the Tokyo stock market to gain 187 points yesterday, taking the Nikkei index to a rise of 707 points in four days or more than 3.5 per cent. The yen also retreated slightly against the dollar, good news for exporters.

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What you need is what you get — and it pays

WORKFACE/ Using alternative salary systems could mean the 'abolition of wagers'. **Velida Starcevic** reports

80 communities for the mentally handicapped throughout the world, pay has been abandoned altogether.

"Everyone, from doctors to craftsmen, contributes a particular kind of work," director Ann Harris explains, "and individual needs are met from the total income of the community."

Need-based pay, stronger in Germany and Austria than in Britain, has spread beyond the education world. But supporters have inevitably come up against practical limitations. In the Bristol-based Triodos Bank, salaries reflect a combination of market rates, individual needs and comparabilities in the bank.

Pay rates for the 50 employees are fixed by two managing directors. One of them, Glen Saunders, says a purer need-based pay system was abandoned six years ago, after it became clear employees were trapped in their jobs.

"They could not leave because they could not find jobs that would bring equivalent money. Now nobody gets more than they can earn in other organisations," he says. Angus Jenkinson, another business consultant advocating need-based pay systems, accepts it is too early to talk about expanding full need-pay systems.

"You have to develop in steps. To start with, I would bring some healthy qualities into the pay system of big companies, for example moving from commission pay to group bonuses."

Bayer big wheel keeps on turning

OUTLOOK/ Mark Milner reports from Leverkusen on the chemicals group wondering what to do about drugs

AT NIGHT, the skyline here is dominated by a giant wheel of light. Within it, forming horizontal and vertical spokes, and crossing on the Y is the word Bayer — the name of the chemical giant which is synonymous with the city. Even the football team carries the Bayer name.

But while Bayer, one of Germany's big three chemical combines, is accustomed to being a powerful force in that industry, it now has to decide if it has the strategy to be a big wheel in the pharmaceutical business, too — a business which currently accounts for some DM6.5 billion (\$2.9 billion) of group sales.

After years of fragmentation when even the world's biggest player could barely manage a market share of 5 per cent, the drugs industry is now on the move. Glaxo's acquisition of Wellcome, the merger of Pharmacia and Upjohn and, more latterly, of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, are changing the shape of the drugs industry. Industry watchers are agog to see the next move in the partnership dance.

Bayer group

Sales (at DM million)	44,880
Pre-tax profit	4,185
Net profit	2,241
Cash-flow	5,424
Dividend	130M
Total dividend payment	1,656

Productivity per employee (DM thousand)

1992	257
1993	292
1994	308

Personal expenditure (DM million)

1992	14,464
1993	14,306
1994	14,457
1995	14,624

Personal expenditure per employee (DM)

1992	52,299
1993	54,188
1994	57,328
1995	60,994

Personal expenditure as % of sales (DM)

1992	30
1993	33
1994	33
1995	33

News in brief

Takeover gives Durex group lead in Spain

LONDON International has become Spain's leading condom manufacturer, after paying \$8.7 million for one of that country's biggest-selling condom ranges, Androtex. LIG, which already controls a third of the total Spanish condom market with the Durex range, said the deal would give it a leading position in the Spanish market.

Androtex, whose other brands include Feeling, Newphylicream and Anandropharm, is Spain's biggest seller in the mass market, which covers grocery and convenience stores and supermarkets. The acquisition is subject to clearance from Spain's anti-trust authorities, which is expected to be received by the end of this month. — *Ian King*

Drugs firm plans float

SEVEN of the world's leading medical researchers, including Nobel prizewinner Professor Sir John Vane, yesterday announced plans to float their Vanguard Medica drugs firm with an estimated \$80 million share placing. The five-fold firm specialises in the development and marketing of pharmaceutical products discovered by other companies.

Chairman Dr Roger Brimblecombe says this strategy offers huge potential because many big companies are rationalising their research and development operations. This means that the industry is increasingly looking to license out products to firms like Vanguard Medica. — *Patrick Donovan*

Names' court victory

IAN Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary, is one of more than 1,000 loss-making Names of Lloyd's of London who yesterday celebrated a High Court ruling which said their losses had been caused by negligent underwriting.

The 1,082 Names could receive up to 70 per cent of the \$450 million they lost by investing in a syndicate run by the Rose Thomson Young agency in 1988 and 1989. The Rose Thomson Young Names are the latest of several action groups to win damages in the courts over negligent underwriting.

Their victory will add to the pressure on Lloyd's to produce an acceptable settlement for its Names. — *Pauline Spragg*

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Racing Retirement rules Athlete out of Aintree

Royal Athlete last year's Martell Grand National winner and 25-1 to complete the double at Aintree on Saturday week, has been retired. Jenny Pitman, the 13-year-old's trainer, said yesterday: "Due to the prolonged spells of frost and snow, and the fact that we are unable to train him on artificial surfaces, we feel that we would not be able to produce 'Aire' in the condition that we would like."



Over she goes... Stephanie Main takes a tumble on the Edmontion ice during her difficult qualifying competition

Ice Skating Main makes final stage

BRITAIN'S Stephanie Main has made progress the hard way at the world figure skating championships in Edmonton, Alberta, finishing 12th in her qualifying round to squeeze into the competition proper. The top 10 finishers at last year's championships automatically earned places in the main competition but only six returned. Everyone else had to compete for the 24 qualifying places.

Boxing Maloney dismisses Lewis rematch for Bruno

Don Best LENNOX LEWIS'S manager Frank Maloney yesterday ruled out a rematch with Bruno. Maloney said: "Unless the money is so good that Lennox could not refuse it I can't see him wanting a Bruno fight, knowing how it ended last time and seeing Frank's performance at the weekend."

Ludlow runners and riders

Table listing racing results for Ludlow, including horse names, jockeys, and race numbers. Includes sections for 2.00 Maiden, 2.00 Wild Swallow, 2.00 Daily Sport Girl, and 2.00 Maiden.

Exeter with form guide

Table listing racing results for Exeter, including horse names, jockeys, and race numbers. Includes sections for 2.10 Maiden, 2.10 Maiden, 2.10 Maiden, and 2.10 Maiden.

Towcester programme

Table listing racing results for Towcester, including horse names, jockeys, and race numbers. Includes sections for 2.20 Maiden, 2.20 Maiden, 2.20 Maiden, and 2.20 Maiden.

Results

Table listing racing results for various tracks, including horse names, jockeys, and race numbers. Includes sections for 2.10 Maiden, 2.10 Maiden, 2.10 Maiden, and 2.10 Maiden.

Over gives Dr p lead in Spar

Over gives Dr p lead in Spar. This is a vertical text block on the left side of the page, possibly a continuation of a story or a separate article.

Smart victory

Smart victory. This is a vertical text block on the left side of the page, possibly a continuation of a story or a separate article.

Blinkered today for the first time: EXETER: 2.10 Urban Lily; 2.40 Titan Express; 3.10 Staunch Rival; LUDLOW: 3.30 Coventry; 4.30 Some Obligation; TOWCESTER: 5.30 Parisian.

RACELINE advertisement featuring a grid of numbers and text. Includes the phone number 0891 6684 and various racing-related information.

